

Climbing and Exploring Utah's Mt. Timpanogos

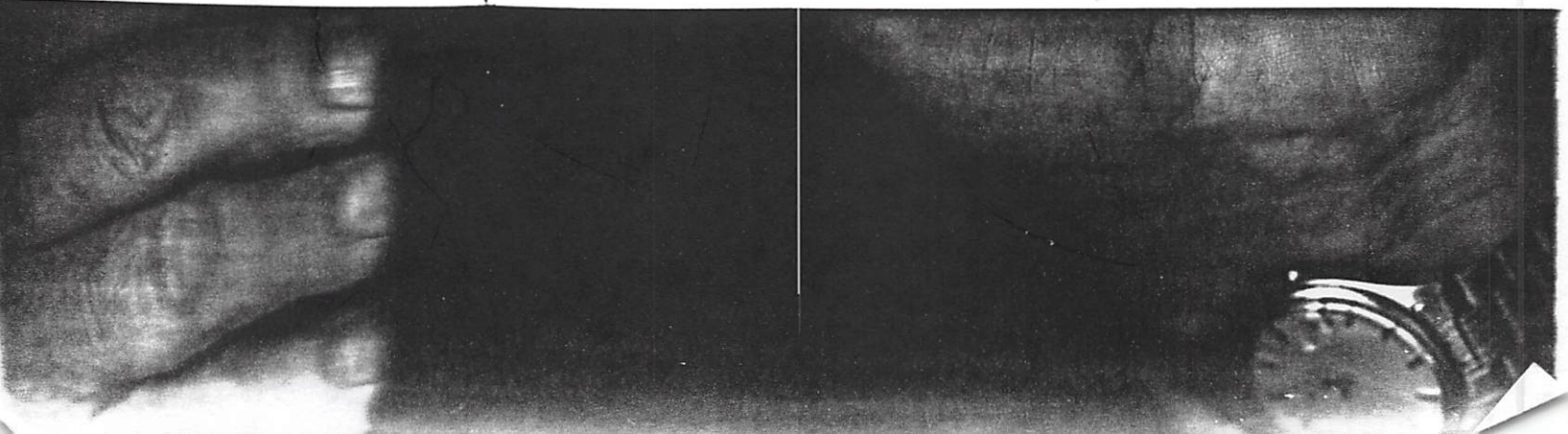
Also Featuring History of Provo & American Fork Canyons, Sundance,
Heber Creeper, Timp Hike, Timp Cave, Airplane Crashes, Hiking Deaths, &
Rocky Mtn. Goats and Geology

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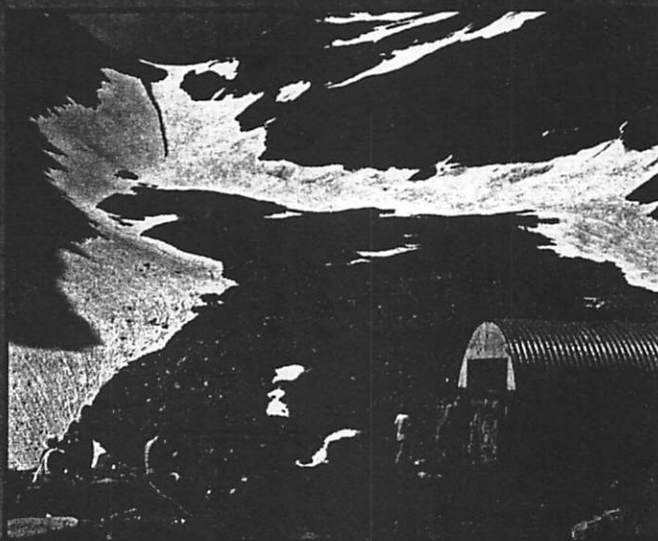
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ALSO
FEATURING

HISTORY OF PROVO & AMERICAN FORK CANYONS, SUNDANCE,
HEBER CREEPER, TIMP HIKE, TIMP CAVE, AIR PLANE CRASHES,
HIKING DEATHS & ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOATS & GEOLOGY



MICHAEL R. KELSEY

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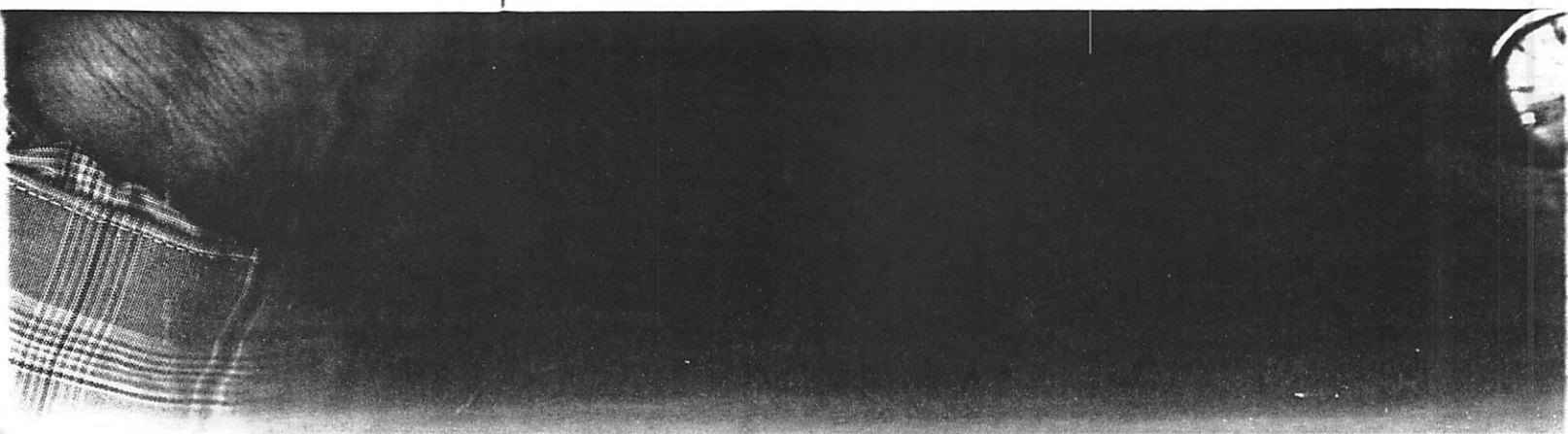
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Provo, Utah.

author.

Timp's Summit Ridge.
Timpanogos Basin.
Timp Glacier.
t of Timp in winter.

Timp's Second & Southeast Summits.
en and the Timp Glacier behind.
summit behind.
summit to the upper right.
ummit in the background.
Peak, seen from Tibble Fork Reservoir.





A 1920's foto of Gene "Timp" Roberts and his wife on the glacier(BYU foto archives).

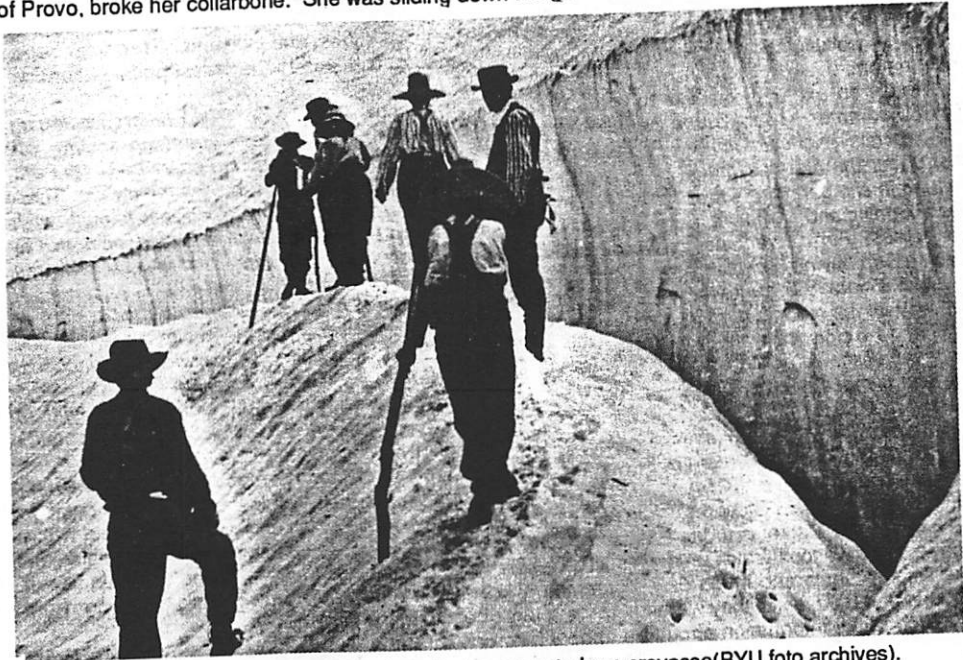
the Physical Education Department, but was then recruited by BYU to become the Director of Athletics, and to coach. Besides being Athletic Director, he coached football, basketball, track and gymnastics.

While living in Provo, he coached two world champion high jumpers, Alma Richards and Clinton Larson. Richards won the Olympic Gold Metal at the 1912 Stockholm Games, with a jump of 193 cms(6' 4"). In 1920, Gene organized the BYU Invitational Track Meet for high school students, a tradition continuing to this day.

After about 18 years at BYU, he was recruited by the University of Southern California. While there he became an Associate Professor in the school of Physical Education and Athletics. He retired in 1945 and returned to Provo, where he died on July 9, 1953 at the age of 73. Throughout the years, he was always known as **Timp Roberts**. There is one peak on the mountain which bears his name today. That's **Roberts Horn** just north of Emerald Lake.

Going back now to the **Annual Timp Hike**. On that first hike in 1912, the group of 19 hikers traveled to Provo Canyon in buggies and wagons, but they had to walk to what would later be known as Aspen Grove. The wagons slowly made it up the old sawmill drag road between Wildwood and Stewart's Flat(where Sundance is now located). They camped at the grove Friday night, and spent the

In 1915, there were about 250 people attending the Friday night pre-hike program, and most of them climbed the mountain the next day. That hike was marred by bad weather. At the summit it was reported that thunder and lightning occurred and some snow fell. Also, one young girl, Daphne Smith of Provo, broke her collarbone. She was sliding down the glacier when she struck a rock on top of the



A 1908? foto on the Timp Glacier showing what appears to be a crevasse(BYU foto archives).



This is the second metal flag to be erected on Timp, July 15, 1916(BYU foto archives).



This is the old cabin belonging to Scott P. and Myrtle M. Stewart at Aspen Grove. A 1933 foto with Ray Stewart left, and brother Hank Stewart. The cabin was destroyed by an avalanche in the winter of 1936(Ray Stewart foto).

on top. In previous years, there had been a few minor injuries but nothing serious. In 1937, the hike had its **first fatality**. A hiker from Ohio, Wendell Pfouts, age 53, died of a heart attack. He had been to the summit and was on his way down near the glacier, when he passed out on the trail. Read more details on this in the chapter, *Tragedies on Mt. Timpanogos*.

Here's a grisly footnote to the Timp Hike, which took place on July 17, 1937. A **Western Air Express plane** carrying mail crashed in the area of the Lake Hardy northeast of Alpine on **December 15, 1936**, with 7 people on board. Only two bodies were found at the time. With the melting snow of summer, a third body was found on July 16, while a fourth was found on the 17th. Others were recovered later as the snow melted.

Four days before the scheduled hike in 1938, a heavy cloudburst hit Provo Canyon on July 13. Heavy flooding occurred in Lost Creek and Snowslide Canyons (on the northeast end of Cascade Peak and just below Vivian Park) which brought tons of rock, dirt and trees down onto the highway and into the river. The Snowslide Canyon debris temporarily blocked the Provo River, sending water into most of the cabins at Vivian Park. The hike had been scheduled for July 16, but was postponed one week because the road was blocked. When the hike did take place, they came up with the figure of 5372 visitors at the Friday night pre-hike program. No figures were given as to how many got to the summit.

In 1939 the newspaper accounts mention that 74 hikers went to the summit of Timp the weekend before the annual hike to test the snow conditions. There were again 5000 people attending the pre-hike program and the next day about 1200 hikers reached the top, despite temperatures in Provo reaching 41.6 C (107 F). On this hike one woman was injured. The Sunday Herald for July 16, 1939 states: *Mrs. Leslie McPhie of Heber City today was "resting easy" in a Heber hospital following an accident at the glacier near Emerald Lake, which left her with a fractured pelvis and a probable back injury. The Heber woman was injured Saturday morning when she hit a soft pocket of snow while sliding down the glacier.*

For the first time in Timp Hike history, some short wave radios were taken to the summit in 1940. Contact was made between people on top and others in Provo. There were more than 1000 cars counted at Aspen Grove Friday night for the pre-hike program, and more than 1000 hikers were off to the summit. No figures were given as to how many reached the top and won their badges.

In 1941, another 5000 people attended the bonfire program at the Theater of the Pines before the hike. A first for the 1941 Annual Timp Hike, was a Timpanogos Summer Ski Classic. At 8:30 am on the glacier, there was some kind of summer skiing, where Alf Engen was the honored guest. At 10:00 am, they organized a contest called the Sitdown Slide Race. This involved racing down the glacier in the sitting position. This apparently didn't go off as well as the organizers had hoped, because it was never heard of again.

Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area

On July 21, 1961, Regional Forester Floyd Iverson of the U. S. Forest Service Intermountain Region designated 4460 hectares (10,750 acres) of this magnificent mountain as the *Mt. Timpanogos Scenic Area*. But in recent years and with the greater interest in outdoor recreation, Timp was made into an official wilderness area. The **Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area** encompasses 4460 hectares of land in the Uinta National Forest. It was established by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984 and Public Law 428 of the 98th Congress. The Timpooneke and Aspen Grove Trails have National Trail designation. The map shows the approximate boundaries.

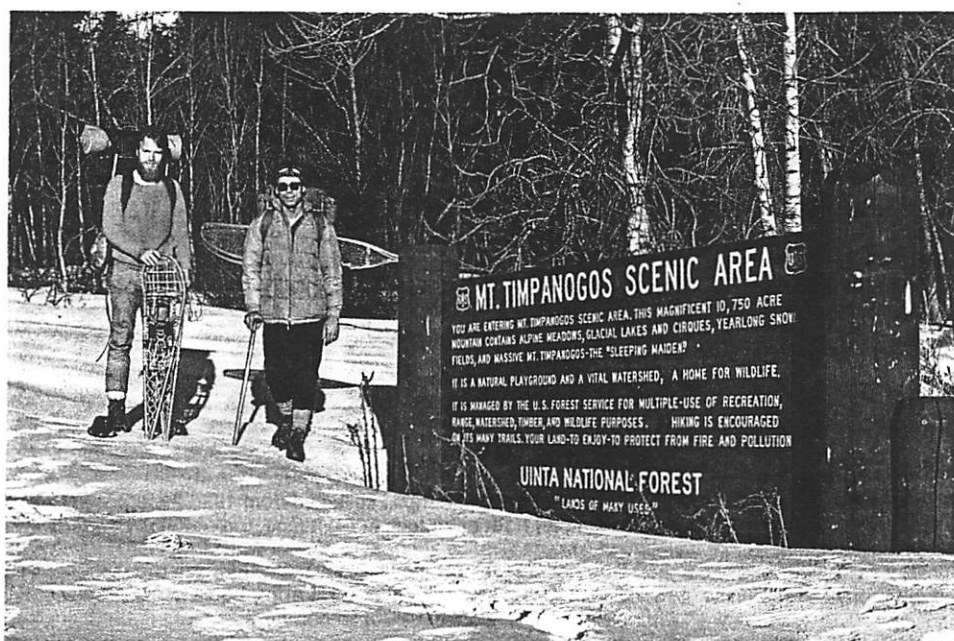
Trailheads and Access Roads

In this book are 12 different places where you can start hiking to various parts of the mountain. Nine of these would be called trailheads, because the route involved is a trail. The other 3 locations might be called car-parks, because there are no real trails above.

The normal route to the top of Timp is via the **Aspen Grove Trail** on the east side of the mountain. This trail takes you to the summit, as well as to Emerald Lake, the Second Summit, The Shoulder, East Peak, the Timp Glacier and Roberts Horn. To get there, drive up Provo Canyon to the small summer home community of Wildwood and turn north on the Alpine Scenic Loop Road toward Sundance. About 8 kms above Wildwood is Aspen Grove. The second trailhead is at **Sundance**, also on the eastern side of the mountain. By using the trail running west from Sundance, you can gain access to Stewart Falls, the Big Provo Hole and Cascade Cirque.

The next two beginning points are in **Provo Canyon**. One of these is about half a km to the west or down-canyon from Vivian Park, and in the area of Frazier Park. This **Southeast Ridge Route** runs up an open ridge to the top of Arrowhead Peak and to the South Peaks of Timp. The other car-park can be at Bridal Veil Falls, or just to the west. This is where you park if you want to get up on the **South Ridge**. This route takes you to the South Peaks, a circle of summits surrounding Big Provo Hole—and for really fit hikers, to the summit of Timp.

There are three starting points on the southwest face of Timp. The first is at the mouth of **Dry Canyon**. To get there make your way to 20th North in Orem, which is the same road as 200 South



Ready for a winter climb. The Aspen Grove Trailhead in March 1970.

erness Area

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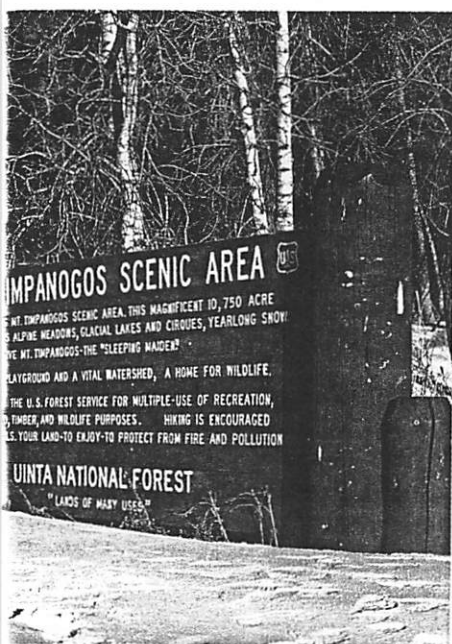
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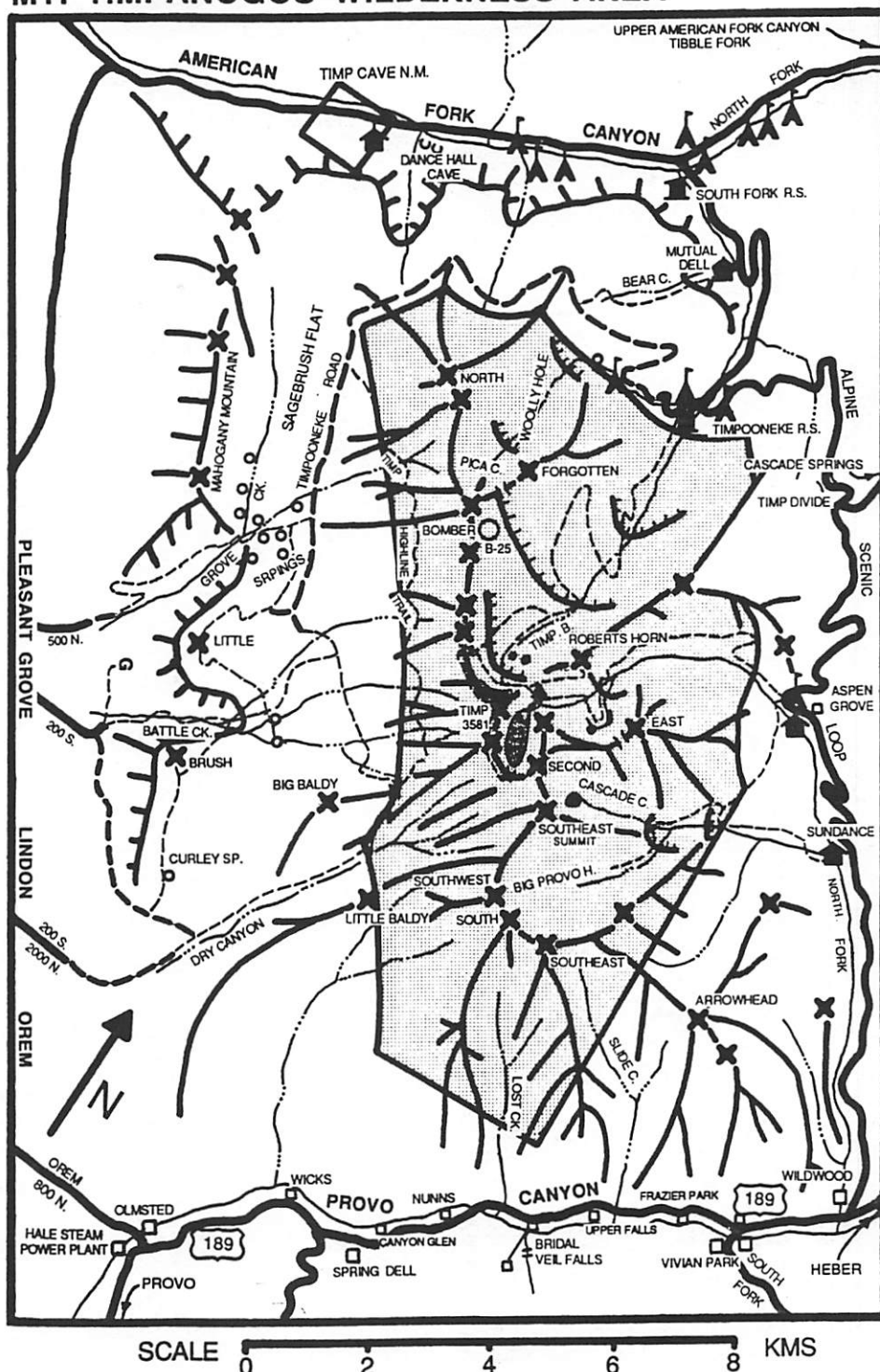
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in March 1970.

MT. TIMPANOGOS WILDERNESS AREA



Peak, Roberts Horn, The Emerald Lake, the Timp

ailhead, drive up Provo Canyon to Wildwood,
ove Family Camp. When you arrive at Aspen
ic Area parking lot where the Aspen Grove

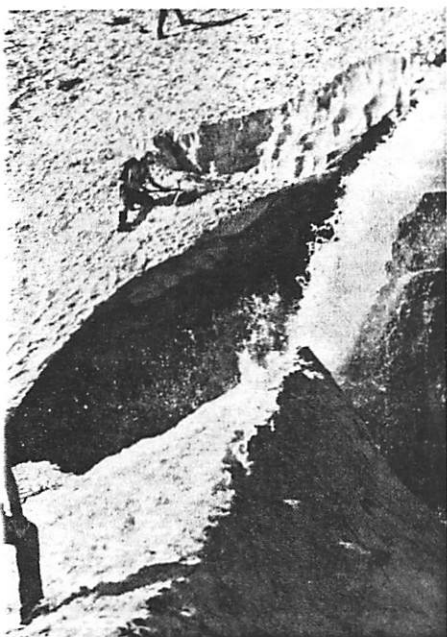
mpanogos is the route of the original Timp Hike
ost used route on the mountain. It's also the
Summit and to Roberts Horn.

t walk up the trail to the west. Very near the
gives the distances to various places on the
not allowed on this trail. Horses are allowed on
nd at many locations along the trail, it might be
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de. It's also paved for the first km, up to the first
dry creek bed on a newly constructed bridge,
nder of the Annual Timp Hike), and another sign
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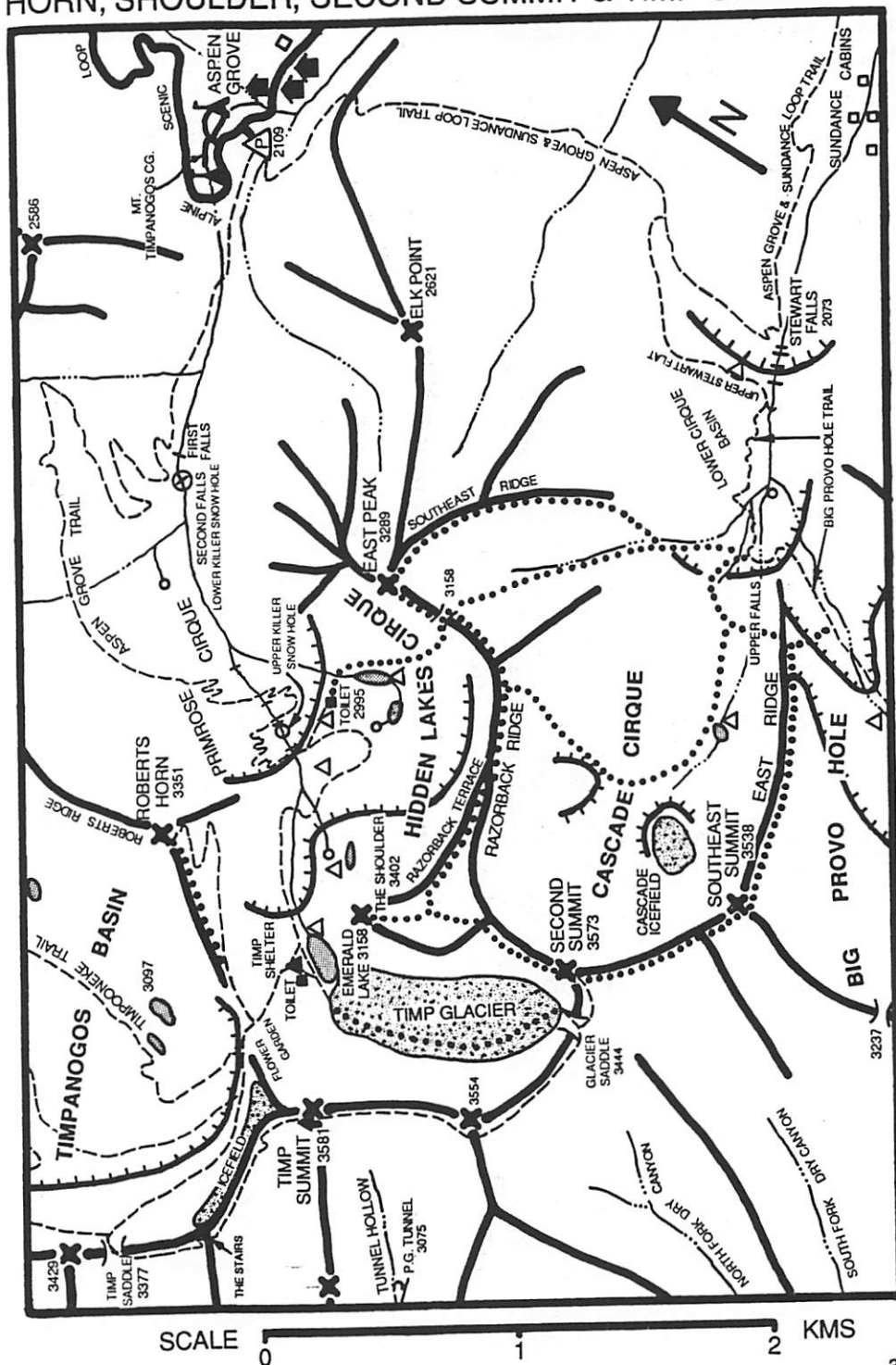
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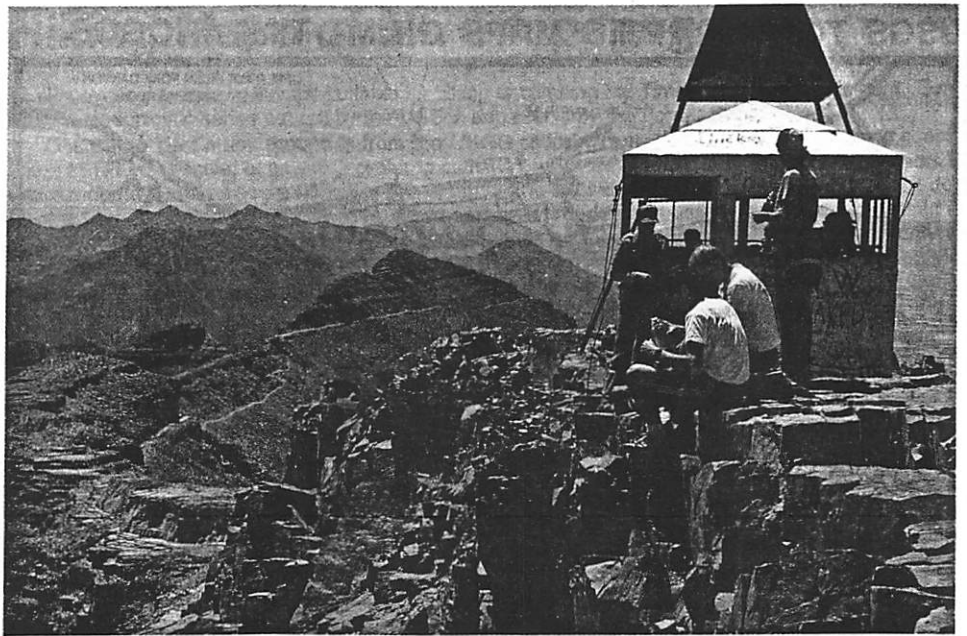
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danger in May or June in years which have had
first waterfalls, as well as all the waterfalls in
ys or caverns under the snow. They are made by
ly, the top part of these caverns become thin as
r the top, you can crash through and fall from 10
at this first set of waterfalls killed 3 hikers in



ing up the snow bridge at the lower Killer Snow
eed foto).

MAP 1, ASPEN GROVE TRAIL--EAST PK, ROBERTS HORN, SHOULDER, SECOND SUMMIT & TIMP SUMMIT





The Timp Summit Hut in 1988.

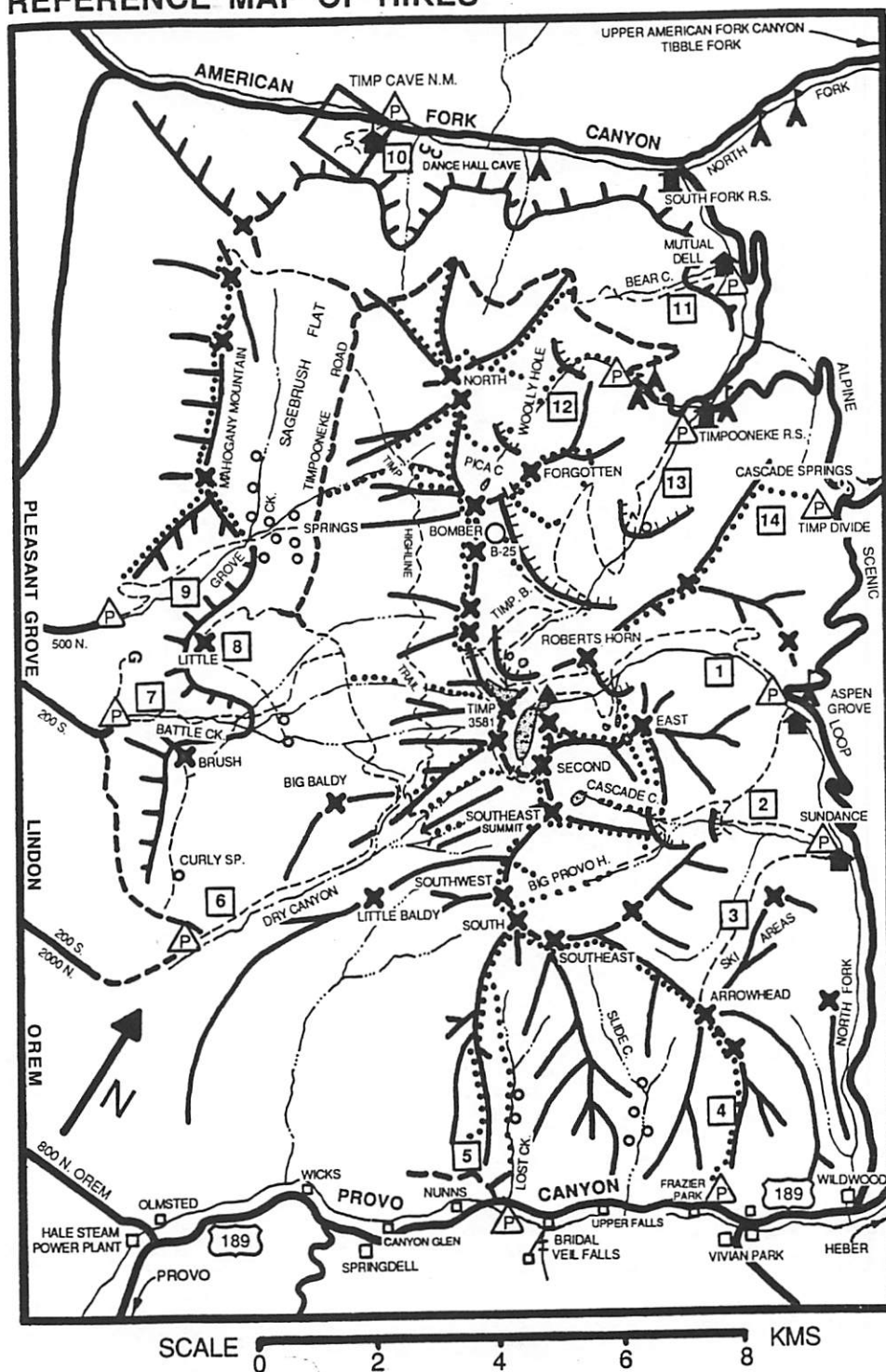


An October scene along the Alpine Scenic Loop Road near the Timp Divide.



near the Timp Divide.

REFERENCE MAP OF HIKES



Three hikers fell into the same hole, called here and on the map the **Lower Killer Snow Hole**. It's located about a km above the Aspen Grove Trailhead and at the second waterfall. Each spring and summer, the Forest Service goes up the trail and either puts up warning signs or blows them up. Please pay attention to this situation and stay on the trail as it winds up the snow fields in the late spring or early summer.

In the second km of the hike, there should always be some kind of running water crossing the trail in several places. This should be good water, as the springs are very near. After several switchbacks, the trail then heads southwest toward the upper part of Primrose Cirque. As you near the upper part of this lower cirque, you will have Roberts Horn and Roberts Ridge on your right, or to the northwest. In this area you will pass several snowslides if you're there in early or mid-summer. Further along, the trail begins some short zig zags or switchbacks. Please stay on the main trail, because taking short-cuts will create erosional problems on this very heavily used trail. It can also result in rocks falling down on other hikers.

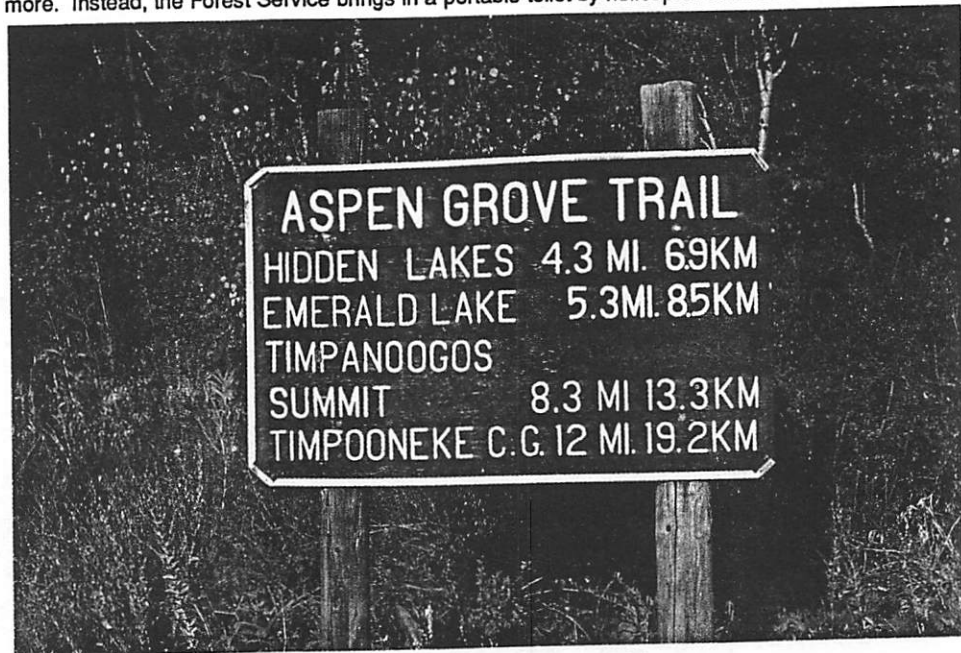
Just below the rim of the upper basin and where the stream begins to cascade over several cliffs is another danger area during the late spring or early summer season. This is called the **Upper Killer Snow Hole** on the map. It's where a 14 year-old boy from Orem fell through a thin snow bridge above a waterfall and was killed. Avoid all of these waterfalls when there's lots of snow around.

After more zig zagging, the trail finally reaches the rim of the upper basin. At about that point, you will see a small sign pointing out a second trail leading to a toilet on the left. About 250 meters along this trail will be a toilet under some pine trees. In 1988, it was a portable type, brought there with the aid of a helicopter. In the future, another type may be placed there permanently.

From the trail leading to the toilet, the Aspen Grove Trail circles around into **Hidden Lakes Cirque**. At one point the trail passes directly above a good spring, then a little further along, it crosses a small stream, which originates from still another spring not far above. Finally, the trail heads west toward Emerald Lake and the Timp or Emerald Lake Shelter.

All along the way, and especially in the upper basins, please stay on the trail. This is the most heavily used route on the mountain, so it's important that everyone help to maintain the pristine and scenic values of the mountain. Once in the upper basins, the flowers and meadows are a main attraction, so please don't wade through the meadows. Usually you can get whatever fotos you want from the main trail, without messing up the scene for others who will follow.

The **Timp Shelter** is a rock building measuring about 6 x 7 meters inside. It has several windows, a front door (which has long been destroyed), and a fireplace. The floor is cement and the roof is made of corrugated steel. Built onto the west end are toilets, but they aren't being used any more. Instead, the Forest Service brings in a portable toilet by helicopter each summer, and places it



The trailhead sign at the beginning of the Aspen Grove Trail in 1988.

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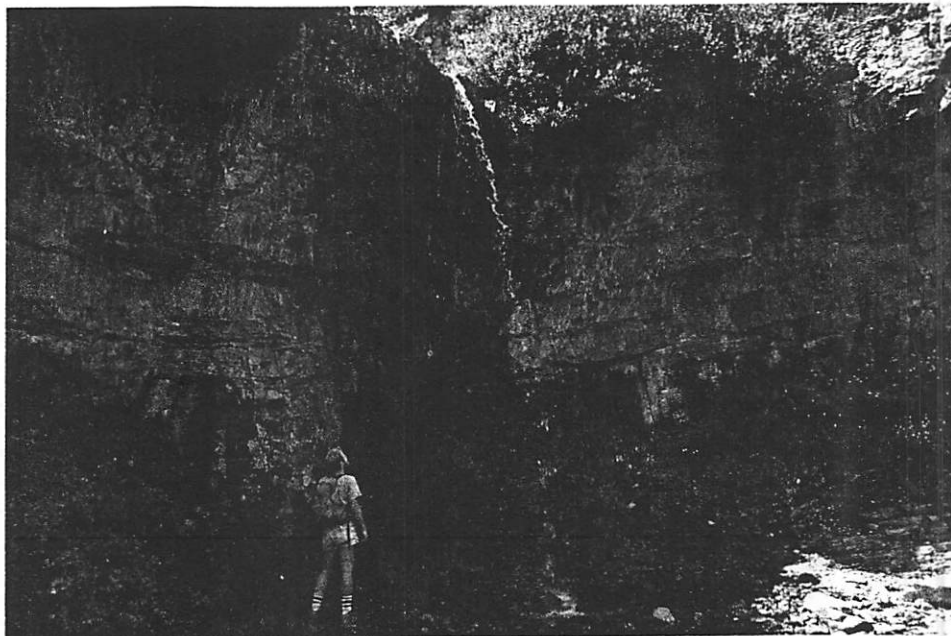
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ve Trail in 1988.



One of about a dozen waterfalls along the Aspen Grove Trail.



Along the trail in Primrose Cirque. The Second Summit and The Shoulder are above and in the background.

just behind the shelter. Please use the toilets if you can, to protect the water quality on the mountain. Many people stop at the shelter or the nearby Emerald Lake for lunch. This ice-water lake sits at the bottom of the **Timp Glacier**, and is fed by small rills coming off the icefield (actually this is closer to being a **perpetual snowfield** than a real glacier, because it hardly moves). The scene from this lake is one of the best anywhere in the world.

From the shelter, one route heads south and up the glacier, while another trail goes west toward what is usually called the Timp Saddle. You can take either of these routes to reach the summit, but the normal way up is to take the trail to the west, then loop around the summit and slide down the glacier and back to the shelter. Sometimes after a heavy winter snowpack, the top part of the glacier can be very steep, so it's often best to come down the glacier, instead of trying to go up. This route description will follow the normal route taken by most hikers.

From the shelter, head west along the main trail as it passes through what the author calls the **Flower Garden**. This is probably the most colorful meadow on the mountain, and the trail runs right through the middle. Please stay on the trail. These flowers are usually in full bloom in mid-July and last for about a month—but each year is different. For example, in the hot and dry summer of 1988, they were blooming in late June, and lasted through July. In most years the blossoms last until mid-August or thereabouts.

After passing through the Flower Garden, you will come to the edge of the Timpanogos Basin. At that point you will turn west and in early and mid-summer, will walk along the lower part of a snowfield which has accumulated at the base of the north face of the main peak. Part of this small icefield stays year-round, but it's often covered by rocks in late summer or early fall.

Further along, the trail gradually veers to the right or northwest and becomes steeper as it nears the top of the main northwest-southeast summit ridge. As you walk along this section of the trail, have a watchful eye out for Rocky Mountain goats, which are often seen in the cliffs and crags of the north face of the Timp Summit. Also, just before you arrive at the pass, look north on the same bench you're on, and you may see nanny goats and their kids grazing in meadows. Once you reach the ridge-top at the **Timp Saddle**, you will have your first panorama view down into Utah Valley.

From the pass the trail continues south, then zig zags up a steep rocky gully or couloir called the **Stairs**. Above the Stairs, the trail runs along at or near the ridge line. After several short switchbacks, you'll arrive at the highest peak of **Mt. Timpanogos**.

On top is a small tin shelter or **Summit Hut**. A few years after it was first built, it had glass in the windows, but that has long since been blown out. Read more on this hut under The Annual Timp Hike in the introduction of this book. It does give some shelter, but not much. The wind is usually blowing and it's rather chilly at the summit, even in summer. During the warmest season, you can normally get by



The flower garden foreground, the Timp Glacier in the background.

you can, to protect the water quality on the Emerald Lake for lunch. This ice-water lake small rills coming off the icefield (actually this is glacier, because it hardly moves). The scene

glacier, while another trail goes west toward either of these routes to reach the summit, but it loop around the summit and slide down the winter snowpack, the top part of the glacier glacier, instead of trying to go up. This route

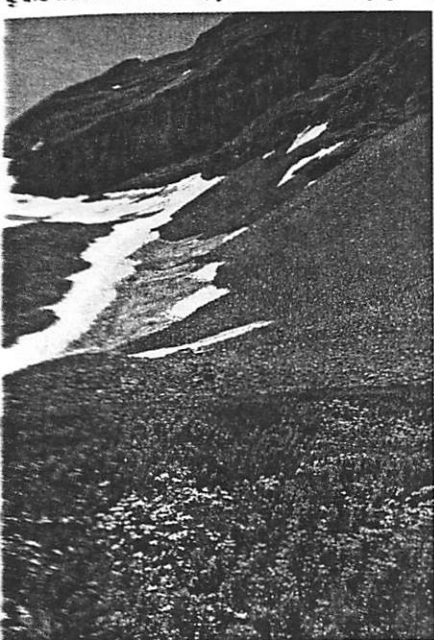
it passes through what the author calls the shadow on the mountain, and the trail runs right flowers are usually in full bloom in mid-July and example, in the hot and dry summer of 1988, July. In most years the blossoms last until mid-

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background.

without mittens or gloves or a jacket, but often times a long sleeved shirt and long pants will make the summit stay a bit more enjoyable. You can also get down on the sunny eastern side of the peak out of the wind. From there you can enjoy a fine view of the Timp Glacier and Emerald Lake far below.

From the summit, most people take the alternate route down to the Timp Shelter via the glacier. To use this route, walk south from the Summit Hut along the summit ridge. It's a good trail and you'll have a view of all western Utah on your right hand side as you walk along. About one km from the summit, you'll make a descent to what is known as the **Glacier Saddle**. This is the low point at the head of the icefield and between the main summit and what the author is calling in this book, the **Second Summit**. It's only about 8 meters lower than the main peak. From the Glacier Saddle, you can walk up the southwest ridge of the Second Summit along a hiker-made trail. From that point, you will have some different views of the glacier, the main summit and down into Cascade Cirque.

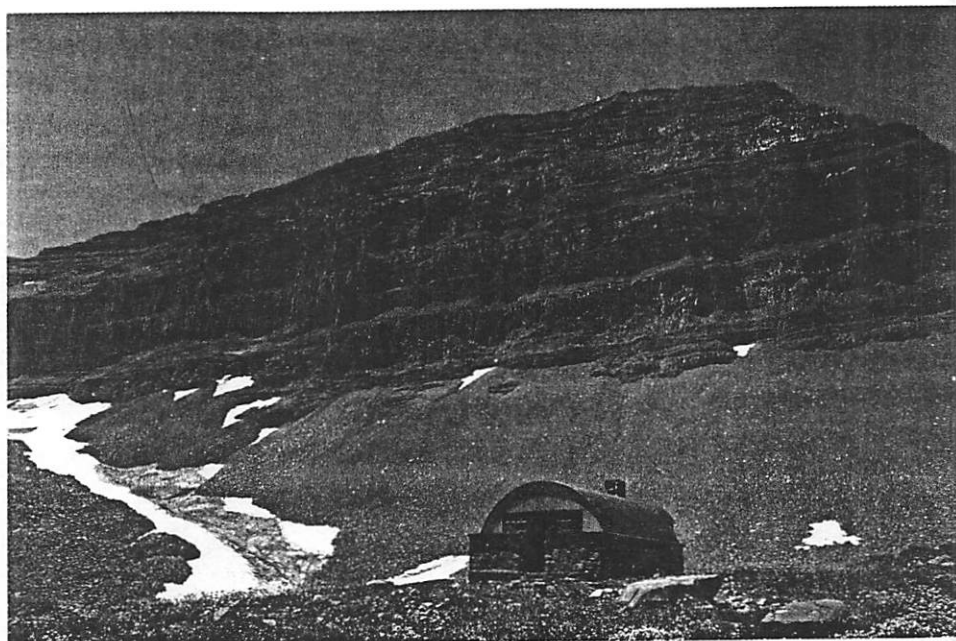
Going down the glacier in early summer (June and early July) can be a bit scary. Right at the top of the Glacier Saddle it's often times very steep. If you slide down in the normal sitting position, it'll be a fast ride—perhaps too fast for some. However, by the end of July, normally enough snow has melted from the top of the icefield to make it a fun and safe slide down the top part. Most of the time it's safe, but be alert for small shallow depressions in the snow and for rocks. People are injured sliding down the glacier every year.

Some people take plastic garbage can liners to make it an even faster ride. However, some people end up leaving these sacks on the glacier, which doesn't add to the pristine values of the mountain. If you find this kind of garbage on the mountain, why not put it in your pack and dispose of it properly?

On the lower part of the glacier, you can walk down on either side, but the normal way is along the west side. When early fall rolls around, all of the previous winter snow has melted, and what is left is a rock-covered sheet of ice. During the heat of the summer, you'll see small rills of water running down the middle of the western half of the icefield.

Other Peaks and Climbs Another interesting, fun and easy climb is to the top of **East Peak**. When you arrive at the edge of the Hidden Lakes Cirque, take the trail signposted for the toilet on the left. Walk along this good trail past the toilet and campsites and toward Hidden Lake. This is the largest of the two small ponds in the basin. From the east side of the lake, walk southeast toward the obvious pass between the East Peak and the east end of Razorback Ridge. As you go up towards East Pass marked 3158 meters, veer to the right and you'll find it easier to walk up this steep slope in the trees rather than up the middle of the talus slope.

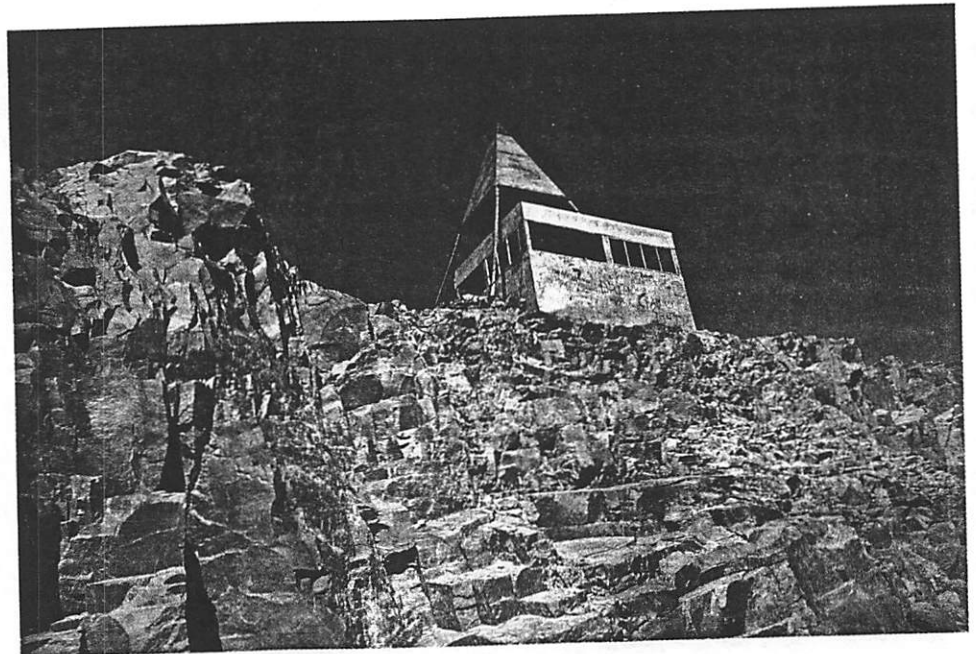
When you reach East Pass, turn left and ridge-walk northeast to the summit of East Peak, which is 3289 meters in elevation. From this eastern-most summit of Mt. Timpanogos, you will have some



The Timp Shelter at Emerald Lake. The summit of Timpanogos in the background.



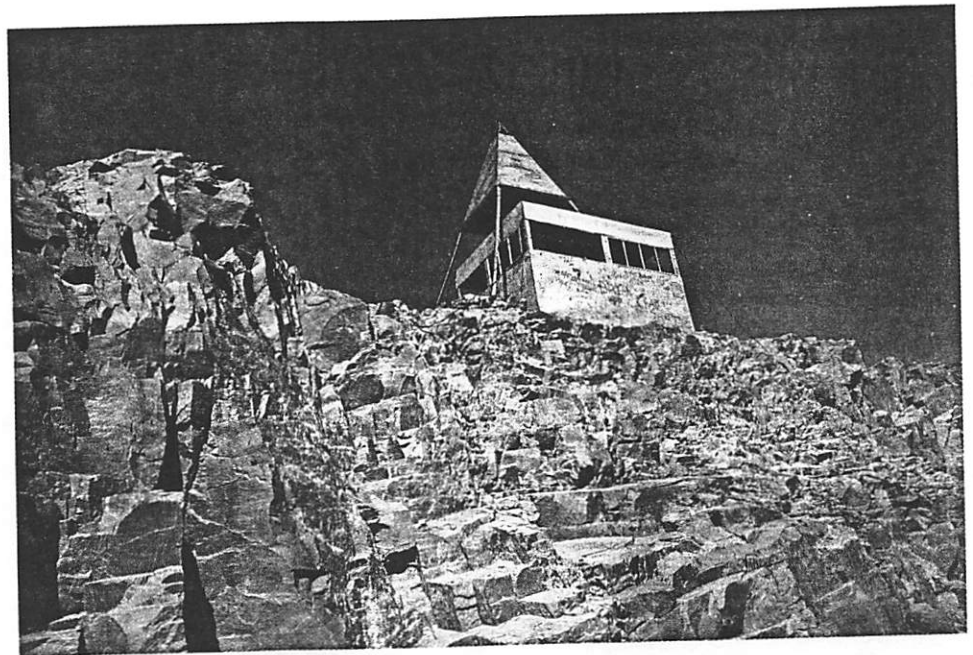
From the top of Timp looking northwest and down at the trail, the summit ridge and the North Peak.



The Summit Hut seen from the east side of the ridge.



From the top of Timp looking northwest and down at the trail, the summit ridge and the North Peak.



The Summit Hut seen from the east side of the ridge.

This is the normal route to the summit of Roberts Horn. First, take the trail west toward the Timp Saddle, but stop as you reach the lip of Timpanogos Basin. From that point walk in a northeast direction and toward the southwest ridge of the Horn. You may see a trail-of-sorts as you begin. A little further along, you will see an obvious man-made trail near the ridge line, which runs out on the south face of the peak. From the lake you can see this old trail zig zagging up the slope.

At that point, you have two choices. You can walk up this old trail to the summit, or you can get on the ridge. The trail hasn't been used much in recent years, but you can still find and follow it easily. The ridge route is very easy walking and since it's rocky, it seems that even if a lot of people use it, erosion won't take place. The ridge route will be easier and faster.

Distance and Time Needed The distance from Aspen Grove to Emerald Lake is 8.5 kms. From Emerald Lake to the summit via the trail passing over the Timp Saddle is about 4.8 kms. This makes the one way distance to the top 13.3 kms. The distance from the summit to Emerald Lake via the glacier is just slightly shorter, but not much.

The record time for this hike was made in the summer of 1967. That was 1 hour and 30 minutes to the summit, and 45 minutes down, for a round-trip hike of 2 hours and 15 minutes. However, most hikers prefer to take more time and enjoy the mountain. Strong hikers can reach the top of Timp in about 4 hours, then will need another 2 or 3 hours for the descent. For other hikers, it might take 5 or 6 hours for the ascent, and 3 or 4 for the trip down. In other words, for most hikers, it'll be an all day affair during the summer season with an early morning start.

From the Aspen Grove Trail(at the edge of Hidden Lakes Cirque) to the top of East Peak is only about one km. Normally this can be hiked in less than an hour by almost anyone. If you decide to climb to the top of the Second Summit via Razorback Ridge and The Shoulder, it will take about the same length of time as if you were climbing to the Timp Summit. In other words, it will be an all day hike to the top of the Second Summit and back. However, only the very strongest hikers should try this alternate route to the Second Summit and include the main peak of Timp on the same day-hike. To do both summits in one day via Razorback Ridge would be a very long and tiresome climb.

If you decide to climb Roberts Horn when you reach Emerald Lake, it should take less than an hour to reach the top. This will be a good alternate hike for those people who haven't the energy to reach the highest summit.

Main Attractions This is probably the most scenic route to the top of Utah's best mountain. Emerald Lake, the Timp Glacier, some of the most colorful meadows and a chance to view Rocky Mountain goats can be seen on this hike. The views from East Peak, The Shoulder, the Second Summit and from Roberts Horn are all worth the effort of climbing to these points.

Elevations Aspen Grove Trailhead, 2109 meters; East Peak, 3289; The Shoulder, 3402; Emerald



The Timp or Emerald Lake Shelter, with Roberts Horn in the background.

ills, East Peak, Second Peaks and the Cascade

Choose from to reach the eastern peaks and dance Ski Resort, the other at Aspen Grove. Stewart Falls, then go on to the other trailhead. Loop Trail on the map. Drive up Provo Canyon road. Sundance is about 4 kms from the main road. Sundance.

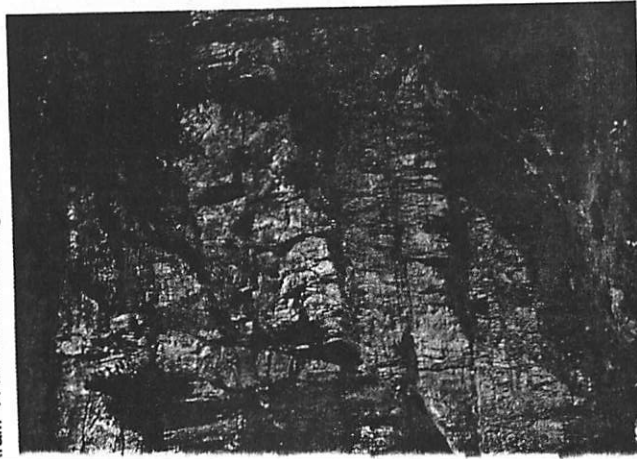
You parking lot at the bottom of the ski lifts. You there, park in the same parking lot as if you were at the Pines Picnic Area.

At your first destination is **Stewart Falls** dance. On many maps it's called **Stewart's Falls**. The distance from each trailhead to the

main parking lot. From there begin walking Restaurant and small store. Just beyond this a grassy area at the bottom of the Mandan Lift. About a 100 meters past the bottom of the road and the small stream which comes down

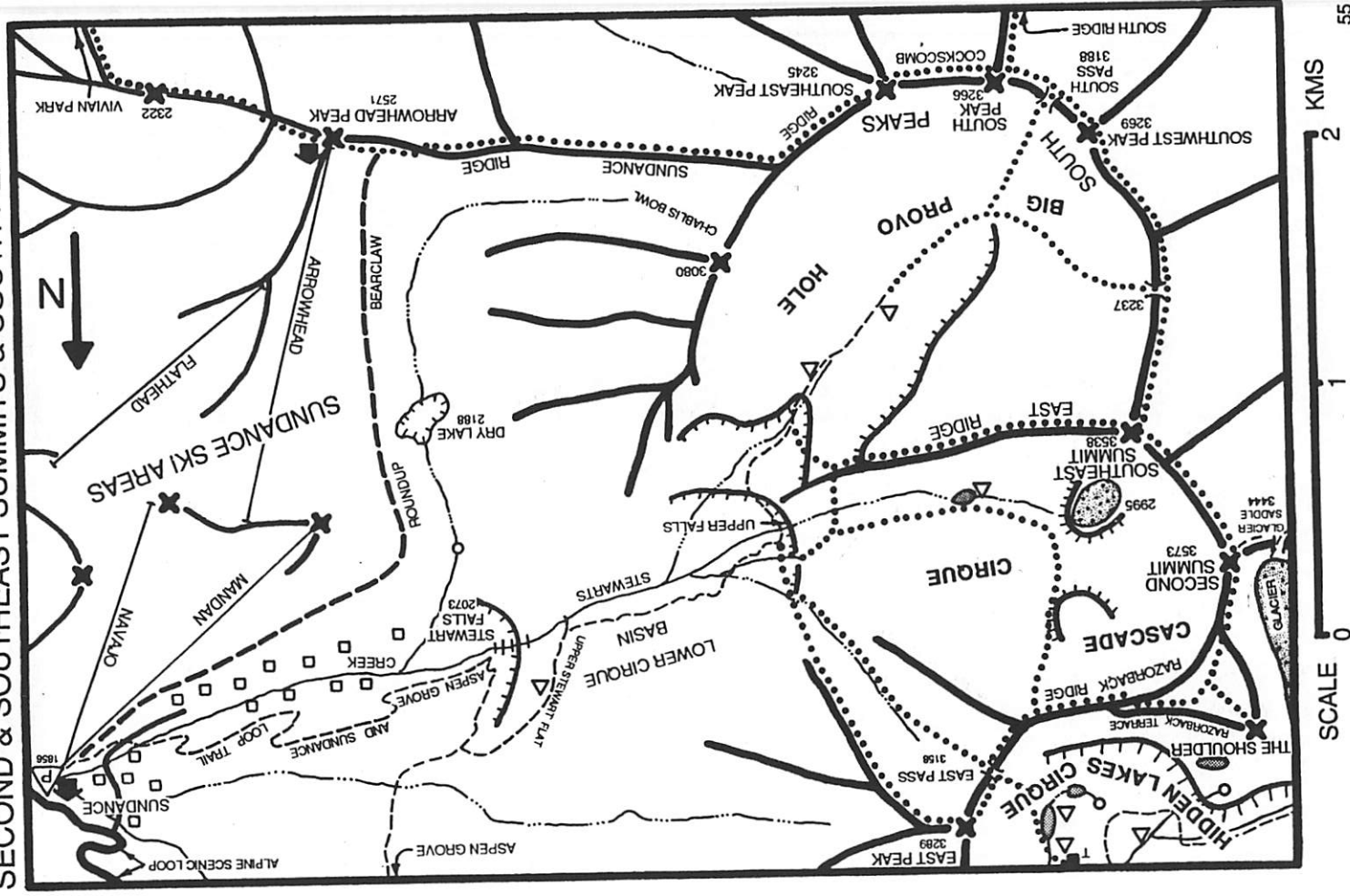
is it heads up-canyon to the west. It makes at the falls. This trail passes over private land and is maintained by the Forest Service and they call it

At the picnic area, walk up the Aspen Grove Trail to the left or south, and walk along a less-used trail. A little further along, the trail veers to the



at Ski Resort and just below Cascade Cirque.

MAP 2, STEWARTS FALLS TRAIL--EAST PEAK, SECOND & SOUTHEAST SUMMITS & SOUTH PEAKS



above Stewart Falls, this water should be good
es out just above the falls. Some may want to

part of August, or as long as there are some
be a small trickle of water running somewhere in
bottle of water, especially if you climb up to the

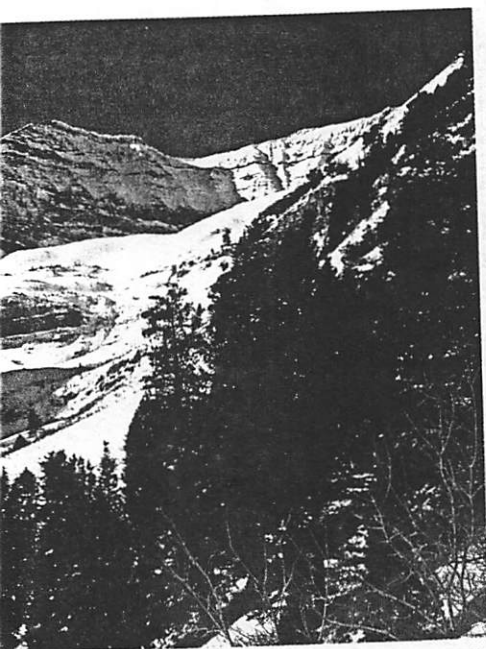
able shoe if your destination is only to Stewart
etter use a more sturdy pair of hiking boots. A
e cirque basins OK.

psites at Upper Stewart Flat just above the falls.
er basins; but remember, in late summer and into
altitude Big Provo Hole). If the snowbanks are
water from below up to your camp.

on a year-round basis, so winter access is easy.
n Grove is open on Saturdays and they rent skis
al trails. Because of this and all the skiers at
n Grove and Sundance will be compacted by
n it'll be easy walking with snowshoes or skis at
deep powder during the period from about the first

e either early in the season, say sometime around
after about mid-March and into April. Of course,
count on the snow being wind-blown and crusted
the winter.

or this entire section of the mountain. Some of the
wn to below Stewart Falls. It's a good idea to stay
h snow storm. If you're planning a trip up any of
n touch with the Utah Avalanche Forecast Center,
aily reports about the avalanche conditions in the
the avalanche danger isn't high in the early part of
big storm there is great danger for 3 or 4 days, no



st Summit. Foto taken from near the beginning of
ovo Hole Trail.

If you're hoping to climb the East Ridge to the top of Southeast Summit, the hardest part will be
along the lower part of the Big Provo Hole Trail up to the Upper Falls. Forget the trail and head up-hill in
the sunnier places on the right or north side of the lower cirque. Then walk under the Upper Falls into
the lower end of the Big Provo Hole using basically the same route as in summer. Once on the East
Ridge, it should be easy climbing.

Winter climbing on East Peak should be relatively easy from Stewart Falls and the area of the
Upper Falls because you'll be on the sunny southeast face or gully all the way to the summit. If you
stay in the gully part, you'll always have rock-hard snow to walk up, but you better not get into that
situation for at least a week or 10 days after the last storm. Again, if you're not an expert on snow
conditions or avalanches, contact the Avalanche Center for their opinion.

It's recommended you not even try the Razorback Ridge route to the Second Summit in winter,
because of the steepness of the Razorback Terrace and the threat of avalanches there.

Getting into the Big Provo Hole should be fairly easy, but you'll always have some deep powder in
the area of the Upper Falls and into the lower end of the Hole. After you get into the middle part of this
Provo Cirque, then it should be easy walking. You'll need skis or snowshoes to reach this area,
except in early winter or after about April first.

If you want to climb the South Peaks, it'll likely be easier to reach the ridge via the saddle or pass
between the Southeast Summit and Southwest Peak. Once on the ridge, you can easily walk to all the
other South Peaks. You can return down to the bottom of the cirque basin via the gully between South
and Southwest Peaks. That route will have powdery snow in winter but should be easy going down--
but not going up.



Stewart Falls. Most of the water comes from a spring near the bottom part of the falls.

Sundance Ski Trails--Arrowhead Peak, South Peaks and the Big Provo Hole Cirque

Trailhead Location The trailhead to the hikes mentioned here is at Sundance Ski Resort. To get there, drive up Provo Canyon and turn north onto the Alpine Scenic Loop Road at Wildwood. After about 4 kms, you'll arrive at Sundance. Park in the main parking lot at the bottom of the ski lifts next to several buildings, one of which houses a small store and the Tree Room Restaurant.

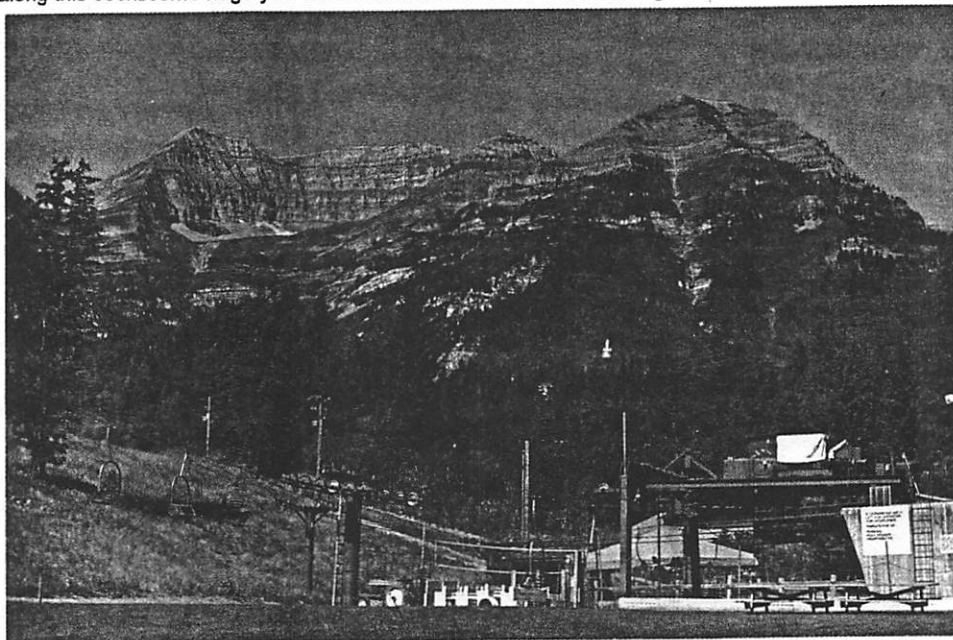
Route Description The route described here is to the top of the lifts at Sundance which the skiing crowd calls **Arrowhead Peak**. The route also runs on to the South Peaks of Mt. Timpanogos. The official policy of the ski resort is, you are welcome to hike any of the ski runs or maintenance roads on the ski slopes in summer, but in winter cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in the same areas is forbidden.

In the summer season park in the large parking lot at the bottom of the ski lifts. Cross Stewarts Creek on one of 2 or 3 bridges and walk across the grassy area to the right or west side of the Mandan Lift. At that point you will see the maintenance road heading up the slope to the southwest. This particular road zig zags up the slope and eventually reaches the top of the Arrowhead Lift.

To reach the top of Arrowhead Peak, you can walk on this road all the way, but you can save time if you stay to the right and walk up part of the way on some of the ski runs on the far right-hand side of the area. The approximate route is shown on the map. Further up this is called the Roundup, then the Bearclaw Ski Run. Part of the time you will be walking along a roadway, but at other times you'll want to go straight up the ski slopes. On top of Arrowhead is a log cabin lodge where meals are served during the ski season. From this vantage point you can see the eastern slopes of Mt. Timpanogos as well as the northern half of Cascade Peak just to the south.

If you're interested in further hiking, you can continue up what the author is calling **Sundance Ridge** and to the top of the south rim of the Big Provo Cirque. From the lodge on Arrowhead, first walk down hill to the west, then look for hiker and deer-made trails running up the obvious ridge coming down from the west. At first follow one of these little trails, but as you get higher, the trails seem to fade away. When this happens just continue up right on top of the ridge. Near the top of Sundance Ridge, it steepens and you'll have to route-find around several minor ledges. This shouldn't be a problem for anyone.

From the top of the Sundance Ridge, you'll then be on a cockscomb-type ridge. The high points on this ridge the author calls the **South Peaks**. Begin walking to the west. It's a up and down hike, but it's fairly easy. Soon you will reach a major high point called here, the **Southeast Peak**. All the way along this cockscomb ridge you will have excellent views of the still higher summits of Timp to the right



Sundance in summer. The peaks left to right are; Southeast and Second Summits, and East Peak.

Head Peak, South Peaks

oned here is at Sundance Ski Resort. To get
Alpine Scenic Loop Road at Wildwood. After
ain parking lot at the bottom of the ski lifts next
and the Tree Room Restaurant.

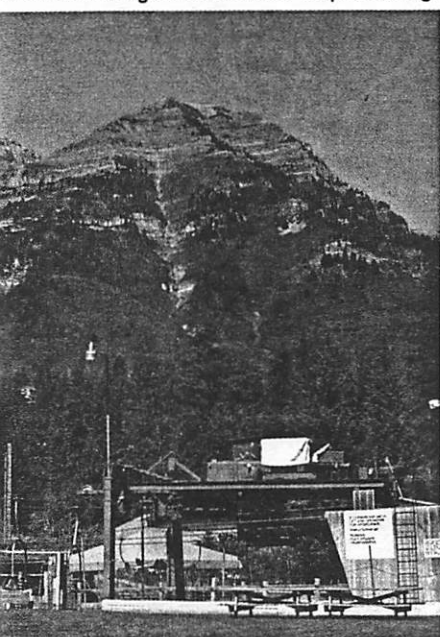
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n to the South Peaks of Mt. Timpanogos. The
ke any of the ski runs or maintenance roads on
y skiing or snowshoeing in the same areas is

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heading up the slope to the southwest. This
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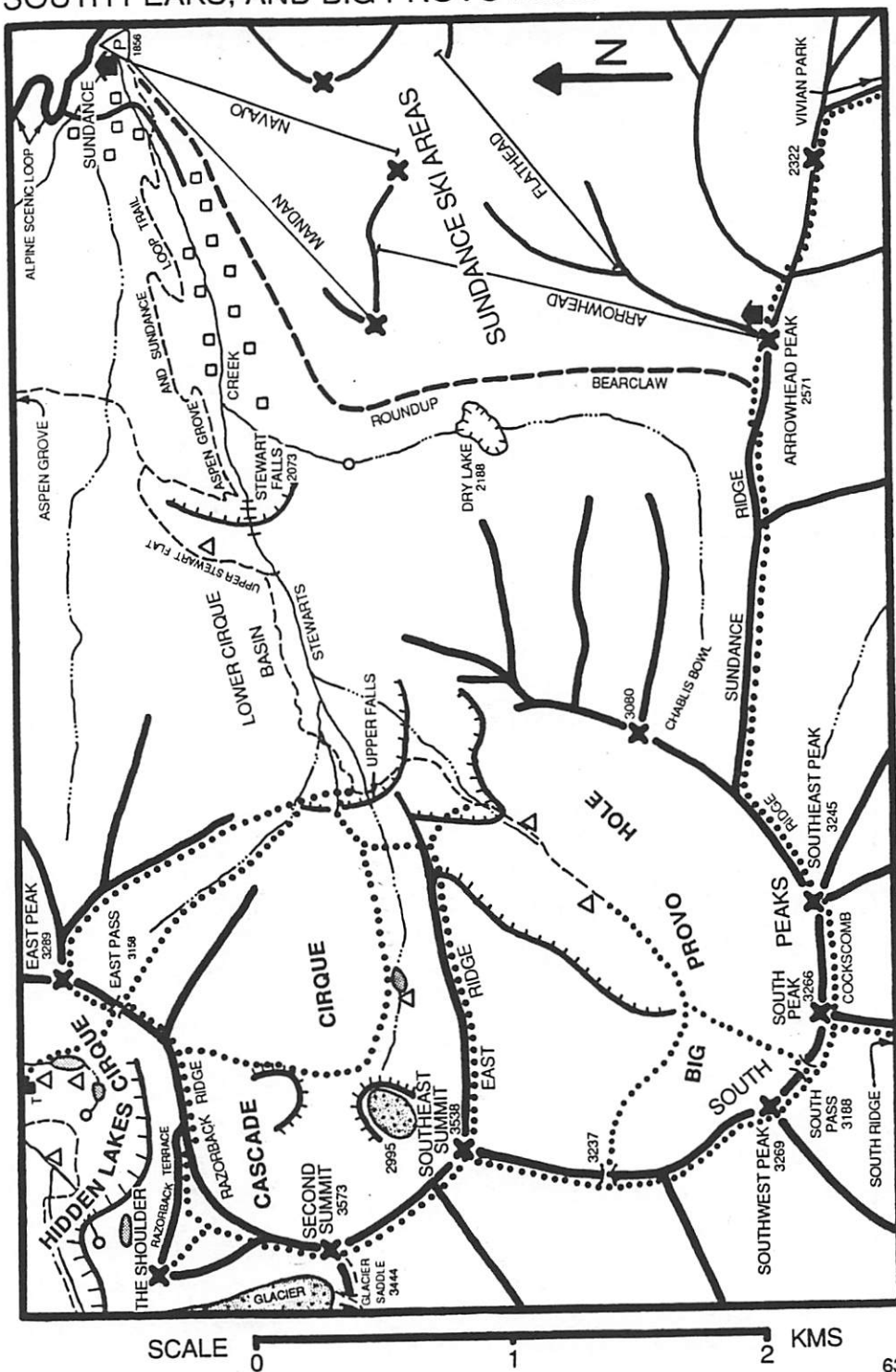
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d several minor ledges. This shouldn't be a

on a cockscomb-type ridge. The high points on
alking to the west. It's a up and down hike, but
called here, the **Southeast Peak**. All the way
ys of the still higher summits of Timp to the right



theast and Second Summits, and East Peak.

MAP 3, SUNDANCE SKI TRAILS--ARROWHEAD PEAK, SOUTH PEAKS, AND BIG PROVO HOLE



or north, and of Provo Canyon and Cascade Peak to the left or south.

If you still have the energy to continue, the next major summit is called simply **South Peak** (if you were to begin climbing near Bridal Vail Falls, you would likely walk up the South Ridge and end at this peak). From the top of South Peak, head down the ridgeline to the northwest. At the low point of the ridge called **South Pass**, you can either go straight down into Big Provo Hole, or continue up to the north and to the top of **Southwest Peak**. This is the highest of the peaks around the south side of this cirque basin, reaching the altitude of 3269 meters.

If you're a really strong hiker, you could walk north and climb the **Southeast Summit** and go down its **East Ridge**. Most people however would be happy just to go down into the Big Provo Hole and return to Sundance via the Big Provo Hole Trail and Stewart Falls. Read more on these trails under Map 2.

Distance and Time Needed The distance from the parking lot at the bottom of the ski lifts to the top of Arrowhead Peak is about 4 kms. Fast hikers could walk up in about an hour and take perhaps 2-3 hours for the round-trip. Others may want about half a day for the trip. If you plan to go on to the South Peaks, and perhaps return via Big Provo Hole to Stewart Falls, then take a lunch and plan to spend the entire day. This long day hike would be for the more experienced and fit hikers.

Main Attractions A chance to see the ski resort in the summer season with green meadows instead of snowy slopes, some excellent views of Provo Canyon and Cascade Peak to the south, and the higher summits of Timpanogos to the northwest. If you combine this hike with a descent through the Big Provo Hole Cirque Basin, then you'll see a part of the mountain unknown to the average person who only climbs the main peak. The cockscomb ridge is an impressive site as seen from the rim of the cirque basin.

Elevations Bottom of the Sundance Ski Lifts, 1856 meters; Arrowhead Peak, 2571; Southeast Peak, 3245; South Peak, 3266; Southwest Peak, 3269 meters.

Water There is no water on the ski slopes or on the South Peaks. If you descend to the Big Provo Hole, you will find some small streams of water in early and mid-summer, but when the snowbanks melt, the water vanishes. This is usually in late July or early August in most years. Carry water with you.

Boots or Shoes If you're just going up to Arrowhead, then any comfortable shoe, such as running shoes will be just fine. However, if you plan to climb the South Peaks, then you'll need a more rugged pair of climbing boots.

Campsites Since there's no water on the ski slopes, camping is really out of the question there. However, if you're willing to carry a heavy pack up over the South Peaks, then head down into the



The Sundance ski slopes in summer. Arrowhead center, Sundance Ridge to the upper right.

left or south.
or summit is called simply **South Peak**(if you
likely walk up the South Ridge and end at this
line to the northwest. At the low point of the
n into Big Provo Hole, or continue up to the
highest of the peaks around the south side of

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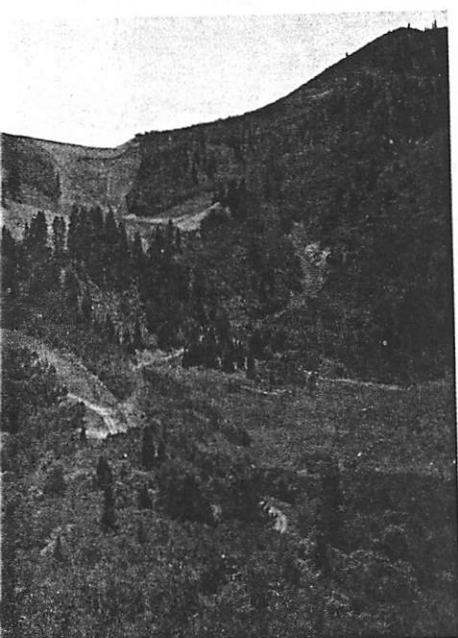
n the summer season with green meadows
o Canyon and Cascade Peak to the south, and
you combine this hike with a descent through
of the mountain unknown to the average person
s an impressive site as seen from the rim of the

meters; Arrowhead Peak, 2571; Southeast
9 meters.

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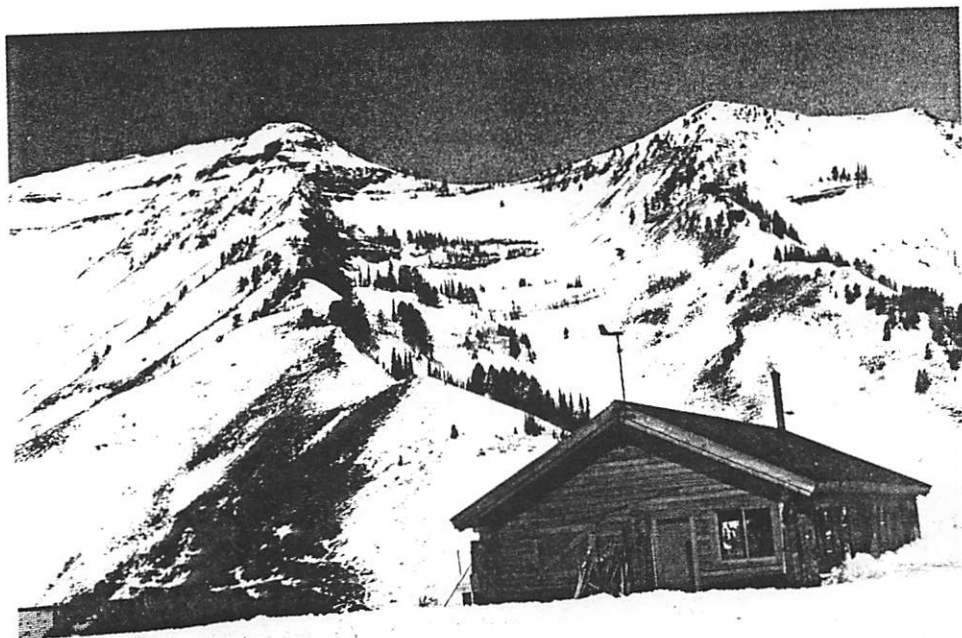


ter, Sundance Ridge to the upper right.

cirque basin, you should find many excellent sites for camping. But do it no later than in mid-summer, otherwise you'll have a dry camp.

Winter Climbing The Sundance Ski Resort forbids anyone from hiking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing up their slopes in winter. So winter climbing up this route is out of the question. If you want to climb the peaks above and to the west of Arrowhead, then you could wear skis on the lift to the top, then go cross-country from there to the South Peaks. They will not allow you on the ski lifts without skis.

You can also reach the top of Arrowhead Peak from the Provo Canyon side, which is discussed in the next section, under Map 4, Southeast Ridge. You could also reach the South Peaks from the South Ridge and from near Bridal Veil Falls in Provo Canyon. Read about that possibility under Map 5.



Log cabin at the top of the ski lifts on Arrowhead Peak.

Peak, Slide Canyon and

re is the climb up the Southeast Ridge of e, drive up Provo Canyon to within about 500 ver and the Chalet Cafe. In that area you will n the south side of the road called Frazier Park. / was being built, so it's not certain if this little ea about half a km west of the Chalet Cafe. The re interested in.

1 of Slide Canyon. This is not always the safest it can be used as a way down instead of back- route is right at the mouth of Slide Canyon and 1 1/2 kms to the west or down-canyon from the

ast Ridge walk to the left a bit and just into the eer trails running to the right and through some r a short distance look for other trails up through et through two minor stands of trees, it'll be clear er trails you can follow bypassing the occasional o bushwhacking any where on the entire route.

idge, veer to the west and after less than a km, The log cabin lodge at the top of the Arrowhead operation. That's in winter time only.

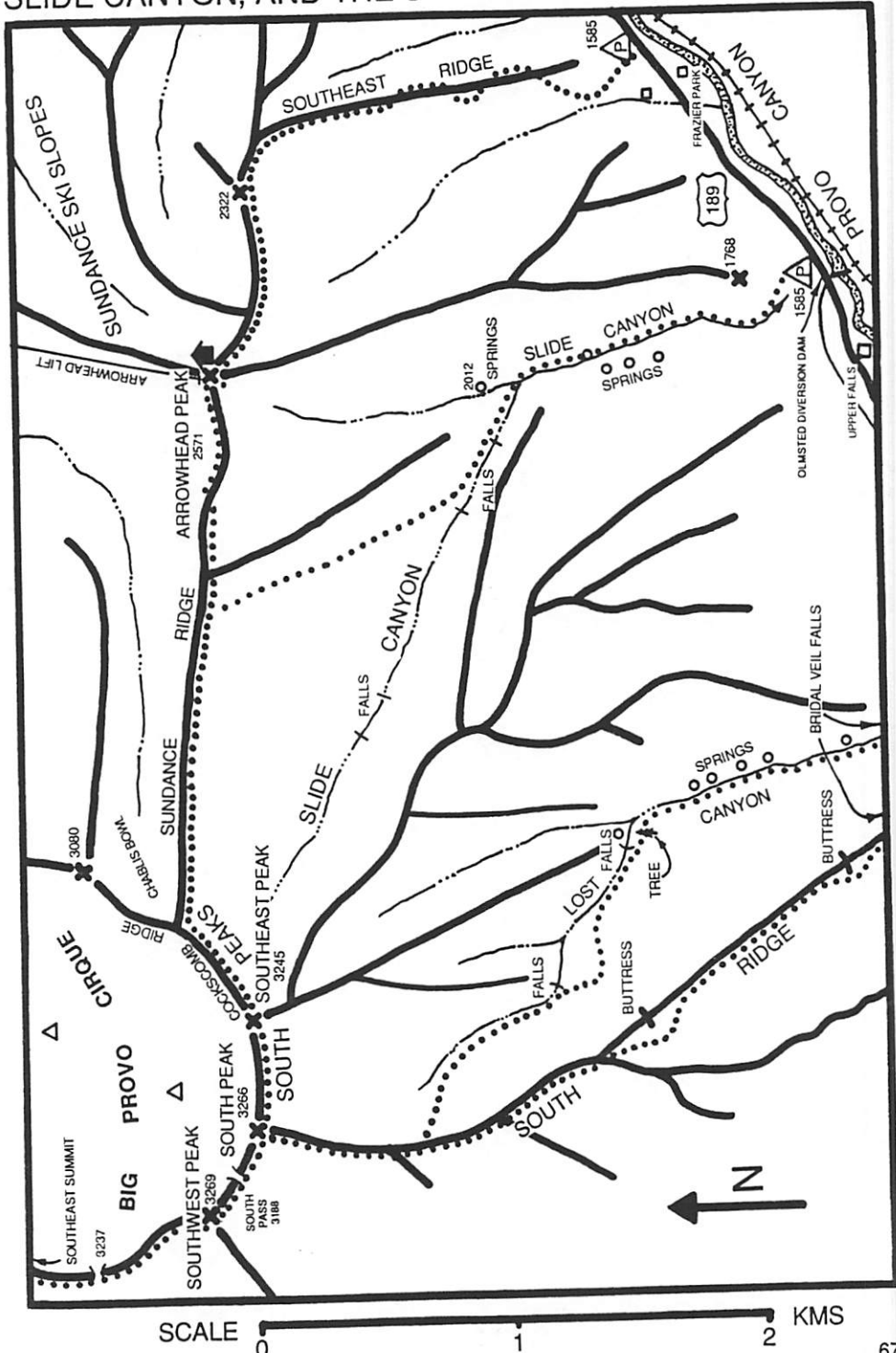
s then begin climbing the upper part of Sundance -made trails, but further along, simply walk up the t steepens and you'll have to route-find around a mb ridge above Big Provo Hole. There's nothing

ks, walk west and pass over the summits of he way is an up-and-down walk, but generally iews in all directions.



Ridge. Southwest Peak in right background.

MAP 4, SOUTHEAST RIDGE--ARROWHEAD PEAK, SLIDE CANYON, AND THE SOUTH PEAKS



Route--South Peaks and Summits

the best of any of the routes with the starting as an alternate, the Lost Creek route. It is the summer, and it may be one of the best all-around

Bridal Veil Falls Resort or back down the road a Park. As this book goes to press, the new Provo place to park is still unknown.

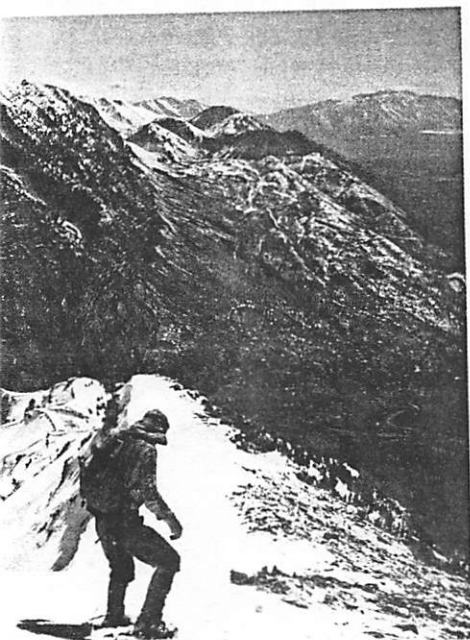
in the Bridal Veil Falls area, then cross the new road running underneath the big green Union or high pipeline which used to supply water for the flow this 4WD-type road as it angles up the steep

which is in a little canyon between two limestone up this little canyon. If you get right in the middle talus slope which makes walking easy without veer to the right again where a rock slide comes e top of the South Ridge, veer left and route-find 200-300 meters you'll have to do some minor with no scratched legs. So it's not a serious route

ll have to turn to the left or west to avoid the first on the ridgetop and continue up. Further along, pass on the left again. The part up to the second he left, but it's not difficult or dangerous.

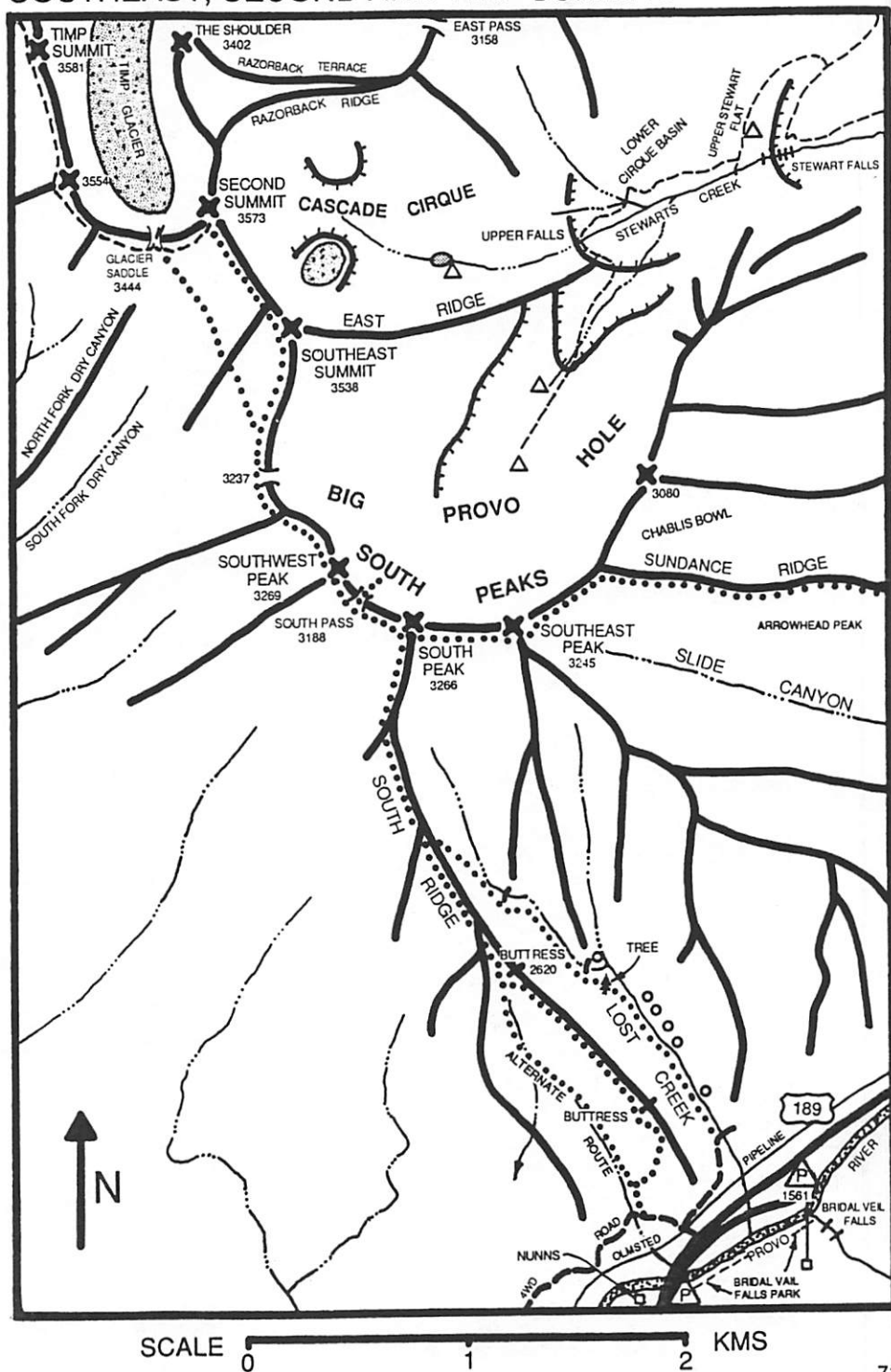
320 meters altitude, the going seems less steep s to ease a bit too. Below the second buttress the ut above the ridgeline has grass and some Limber es very rocky and a little rough and steep, but not

ou will have a good look down into Big Provo s to the north. Also, you'll have some interesting



n winter. Provo Canyon and Cascade Peak in kground.

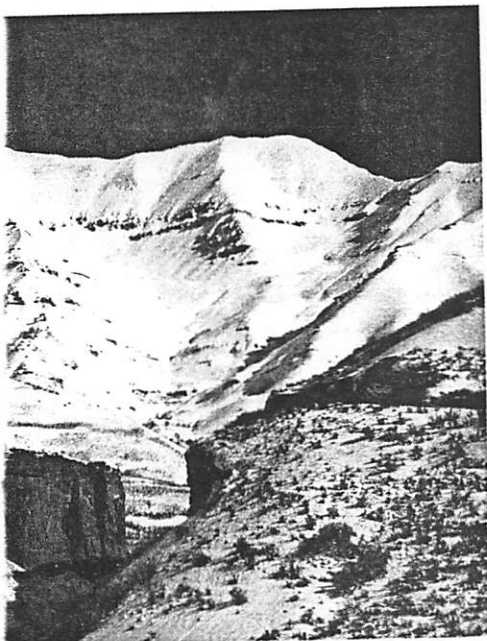
MAP 5, SOUTH RIDGE(LOST CREEK)--SOUTH PEAKS, SOUTHEAST, SECOND AND TIMP SUMMITS



South Peaks and Southeast,

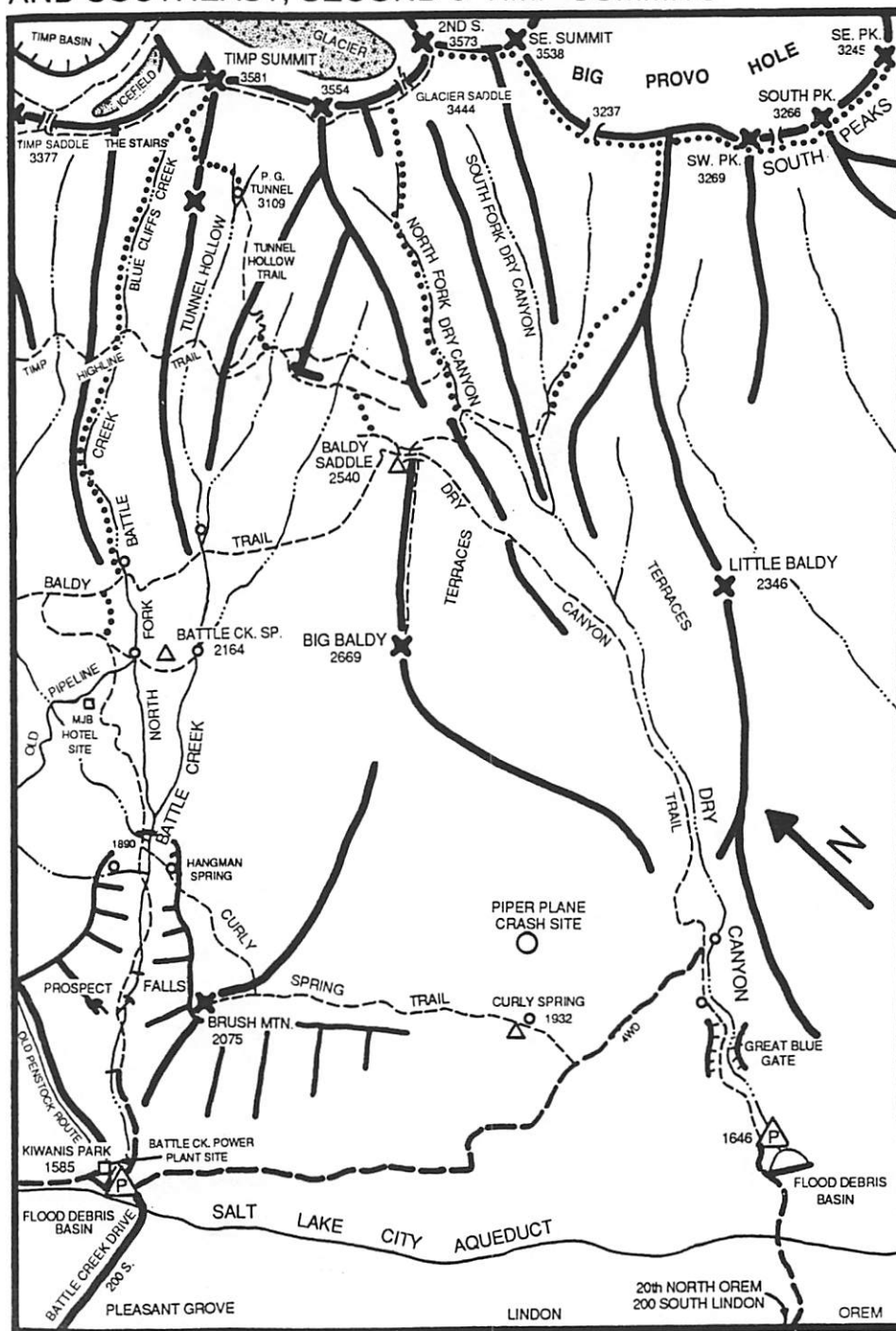
along the trail and routes at the head of Dry Canyon. The trailhead is at the mouth of Dry Canyon, and London. which is the old Highway 89 to the north end of the boundary line between Orem and London. It is on City street number. Once on this street, drive on at the far eastern end of this road, so expect to find homes being built right up next to the mountain. North-200 South Street, the pavement will end and Dry Canyon. There will likely be a maze of roads, and at the mouth of the canyon is a large debris flood pool. You will pass to the left of this dam, then just a coming out of the canyon on the left or north side of

ed often and is maintained by the Forest Service. The face of Timp. At the beginning of the trail is a sign for 1/2 miles (about 7 kms) ahead. Then, after about 600 meters, you'll pass through a canyon because it's made of the Great Blue Limestone. The trough on the left. Just above that the canyon is a fire-break road, but it's still easy to follow. Further up, the terraces built in the early 1960's to stop erosion. The century before the terracing was put in. Read more on *terracing on the Mountain* in the back of this book. The trail between Big Baldy and the main part of Mt. Baldy at 2540 meters altitude. From this saddle, you can make trail up along a ridge to the top of Big Baldy, and have some interesting close-up views of the rest of the mountain. This route, it's recommended you take this short beginning the major climb. The best time for fotos



Limestone gate in the lower part of foto.

MAP 6, DRY CANYON TRAIL--BIG BALDY, SOUTH PEAKS AND SOUTHEAST, SECOND & TIMP SUMMITS



ing Trail, Big Baldy, l and Timp Summit

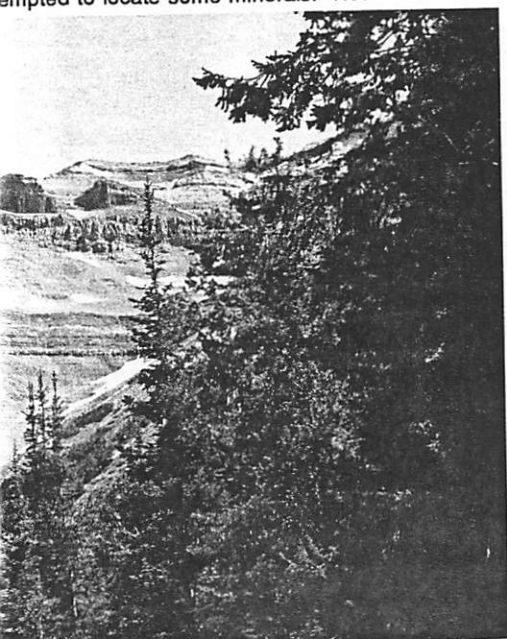
is located at the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon,
e. To get there, make your way to the center of
unning east named Battle Creek Drive. This is also
t ends near a large city water tank on the left side.
parking lot next to the entrance to the Kiwanis Park.
te, a small grassy playground, some running water
the old Battle Creek Power Station caretakers home
ill see where the old penstock used to come down.
fe.

ark, but with a strong vehicle, you can drive another
road, all the water in Battle Creek(in summer time)
ley below.

se of an early encounter between some of the first
is February 28, 1849. It seems that some cattle had
f Willow Creek, which is now Draper in the south end
n Scott and about 40 Mormons out to find the cattle.
f the Provo River, where they found a band of Utes
le Chief did his best to get along with the Mormons.
len the cattle and where they were camped. It was
ormons to find the thieves.

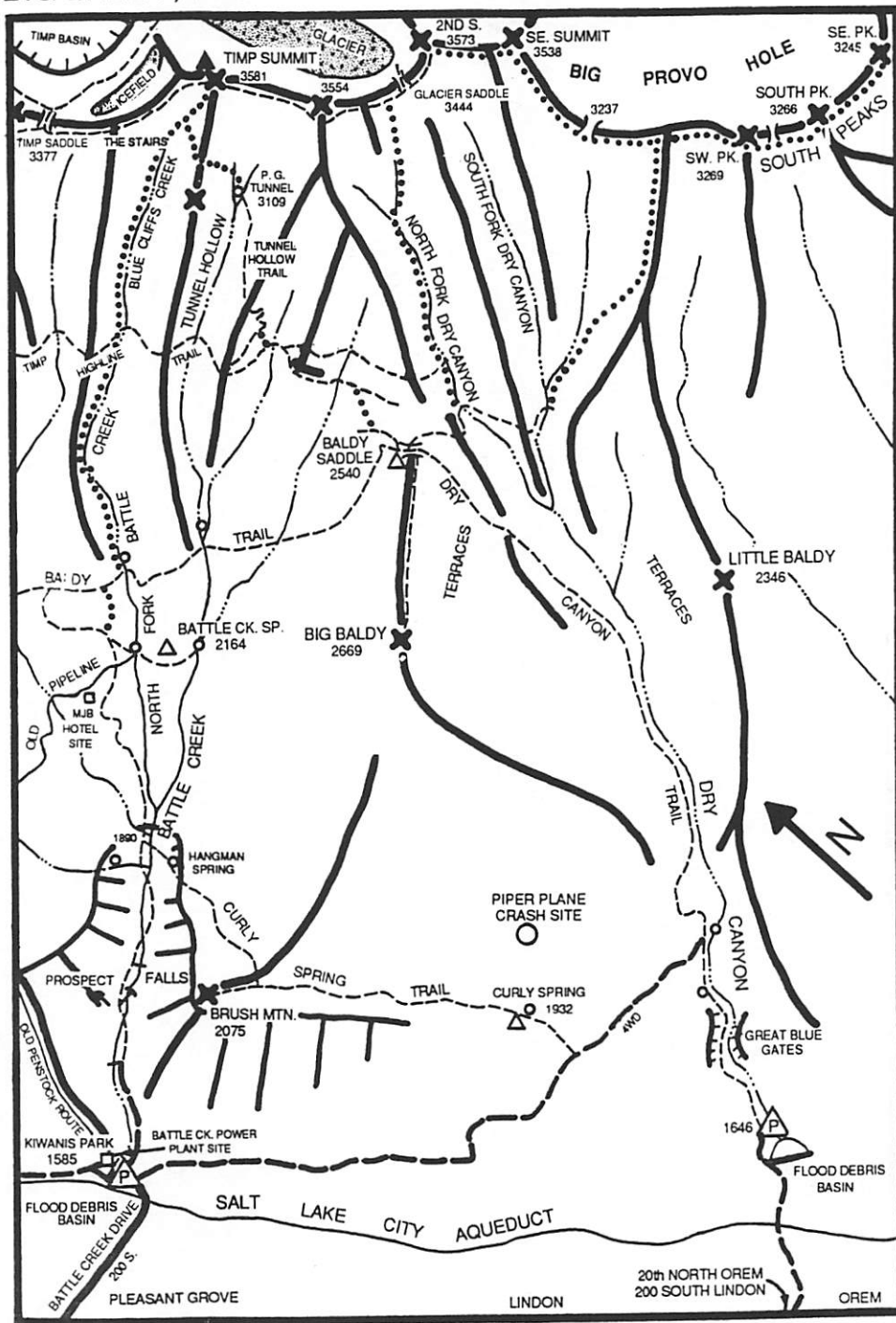
y to the encampment of a small group of Utes at the
nt Grove. They surrounded the camp and at dawn
first, but in the end 4 Ute braves lay dead, including
and of 17, four were men, the rest being women and
e City, where they were clothed and housed for a
p of Utes. Because of this first encounter between
med Battle Creek.

ch is the recommended place to leave your car, walk
e trail. From there a good, well used trail runs up the
distance you cross the creek and come to an old
empted to locate some minerals. Not far above the



ow looking up at the summit.

MAP 7, BATTLE CREEK TRAIL--CURLY SPRING TRAIL, BIG BALDY, P. G. TUNNEL & TIMP SUMMIT



Battle Creek & Grove Creek Loop Trail--Pleasant Grove Pipeline, Little Mountain and the Letter "G" Hikes

Trailhead Location There are two trailheads involved here; one is at the mouth of Battle Creek, the other at the mouth of Grove Creek. Both of these canyons drain the southwest slopes of Timpanogos and both streams come down to the Pleasant Grove City limits.

To get to the mouth of Battle Creek Canyon, find your way to the center of Pleasant Grove and look for the street named Battle Creek Drive, which is the same as 200 South. Drive east until this street ends at the Kiwanis Park right at the mouth of the canyon. Most people will want to park at the entrance to the Kiwanis Park. This is the same trailhead as discussed under Map 7.

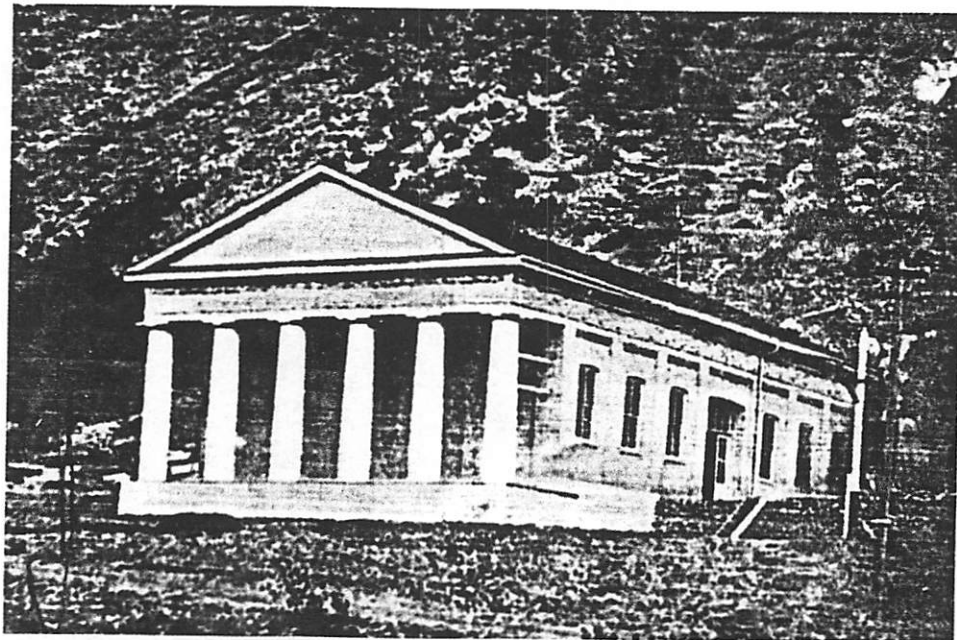
To find the trailhead on Grove Creek, make your way to the middle of Pleasant Grove, then go north on about any street until you reach 500 North Street, which is also named Grove Creek Drive. Head east on this street until it turns to the right. At that point, you veer to the left and drive up a dirt road along side the flood debris basin and straight into the canyon. People with cars will want to park near the flood dam, but those with higher clearance vehicles may want to drive into the canyon maybe another 300 meters.

Route Description There are several hikes here, one of which is a loop hike from Grove Creek to Battle Creek. You can walk this loop in either direction, but it will be discussed here beginning on Grove Creek.

From where you park your car, walk up **Grove Creek Canyon**. Just into the canyon will be a short 4WD segment of road going down to the creek on the right. It ends at the stream where the water enters a pipeline. But stay on the trail instead, which veers to the left. At first the trail runs along the canyon bottom, but a little further up it makes a sharp left turn and begins to climb the canyon wall. After one more switchback, it again heads up canyon high on the north wall.

From the second switchback you will walk about two kms along a good trail until finally you'll be at the head of the steep-sided canyon. Just above some waterfalls or cascades, the trail crosses the upper part of Grove Creek and makes a couple of zig zags up through the pines on the east side. Once the trail gets out of the canyon bottom and through the pines, it levels off a bit as it passes through several meadows and past a couple of springs, then it finally runs beside **Grove Creek Spring** on the right. This spring is in the middle of a large clearing and the water seeps out of the gravels. This is the best place around to get a good drink.

From this spring you will have two routes to choose from. If you continue northeast toward the mountain, you will soon come to the **Timpooneke Road**, which starts on the north side of the



The old Battle Creek Hydroelectric Power Station completed in 1907(Eva Proctor foto).

Loop Trail--Pleasant Grove the Letter "G" Hikes

olved here: one is at the mouth of Battle Creek, f these canyons drain the southwest slopes of Pleasant Grove City limits.

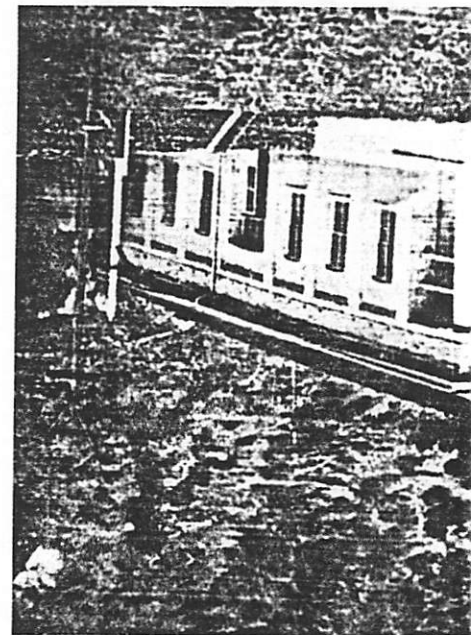
id your way to the center of Pleasant Grove and n is the same as 200 South. Drive east until this f the canyon. Most people will want to park at the head as discussed under Map 7.

ur way to the middle of Pleasant Grove, then go Street, which is also named Grove Creek Drive. that point, you veer to the left and drive up a dirt vehicles may want to drive into the canyon maybe one of which is a loop hike from Grove Creek to action, but it will be discussed here beginning on

Creek Canyon. Just into the canyon will be a on the right. It ends at the stream where the water h veers to the left. At first the trail runs along the arp left turn and begins to climb the canyon wall. high on the north wall.

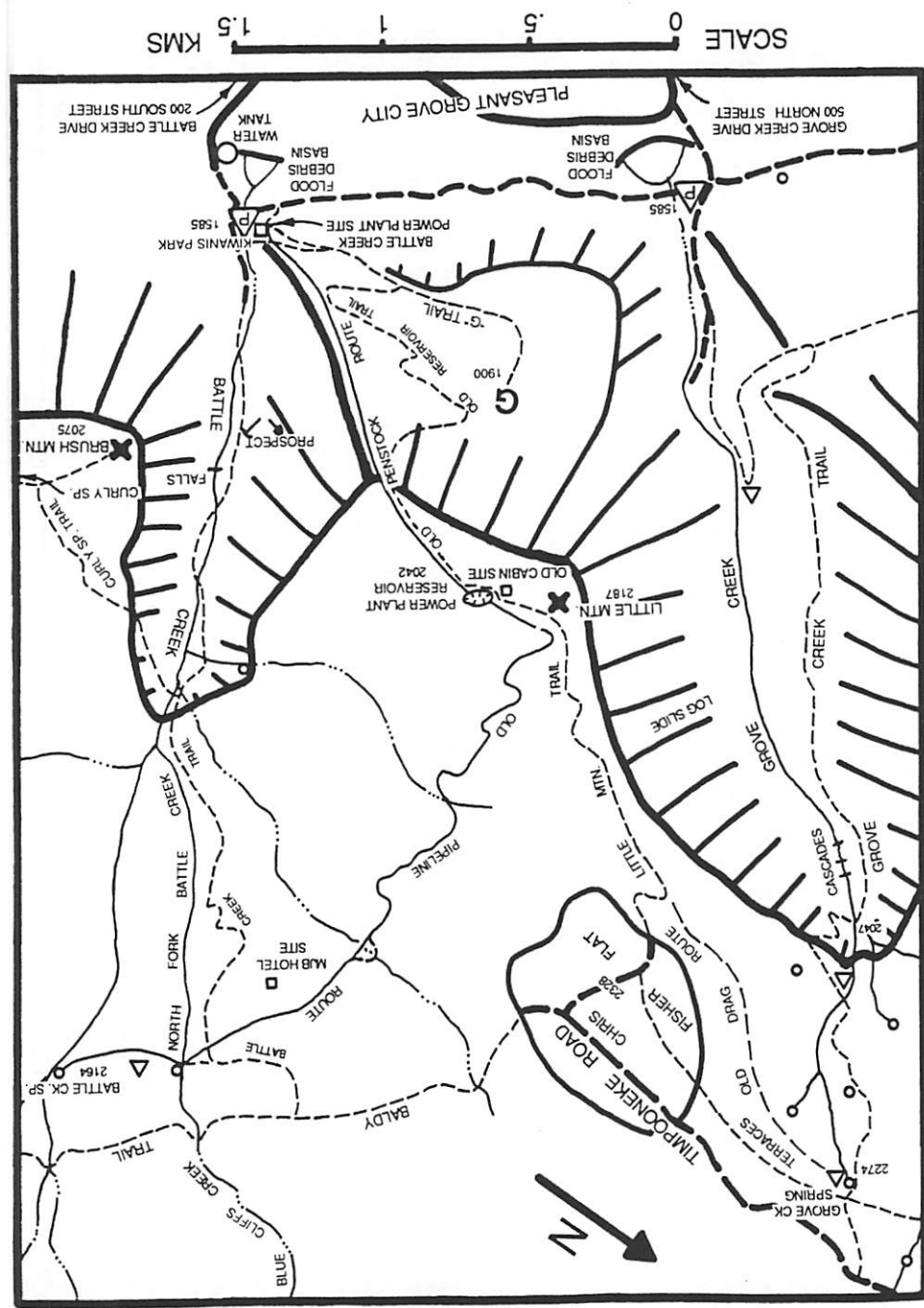
two kms along a good trail until finally you'll be at some waterfalls or cascades, the trail crosses the zig zags up through the pines on the east side. rough the pines, it levels off a bit as it passes through the pines, then it finally runs beside **Grove Creek** a large clearing and the water seeps out of the drink.

ose from. If you continue northeast toward the e Road, which starts on the north side of the



Completed in 1907 (Eva Proctor foto).

MAP 8, BATTLE CREEK & GROVE CREEK LOOP TRAIL--P. G. PIPELINE, LITTLE MTN. & "G" HIKES



panogos Cave, better known locally as the Timp
Fork Canyon. The map shows one square km, all
nt. To get there, drive east into the canyon from
asant Grove. The road in the canyon is called the
visitor center is located near mile post 10. Drive

st enter the monument visitor center. There you
n for a time slot and designated cave tour. While
slides, and during the busy summer season, food
w a slide show or video presentation about the

he visitor center directly onto the cave trail. The
it's easy walking. Along the way you will see
a self-guided tour which explains vegetation and
this walk, buy the little booklet entitled, *Along the*
ave. Just before you arrive at the cave entrance
he cave tour will last up to an hour. There is also
nd the exit.

ady resting place if you're there in the middle of a
e The Grotto. You must wait there until your cave
ve door and your tour will begin.

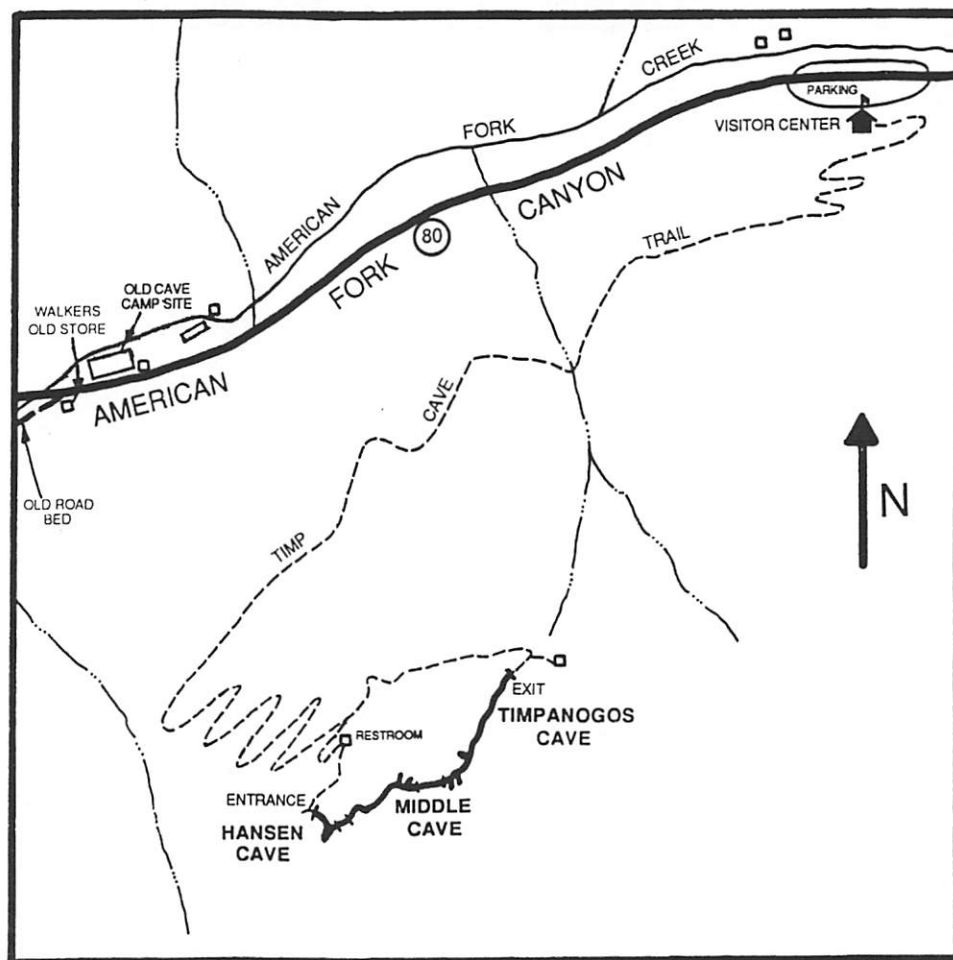
sen Cave, the part of the cave system first
because back in 1892-3, the cave was mined of
me).

n-made tunnel, connecting it to the Middle Cave.
vered, so it was not vandalized. The Middle Cave

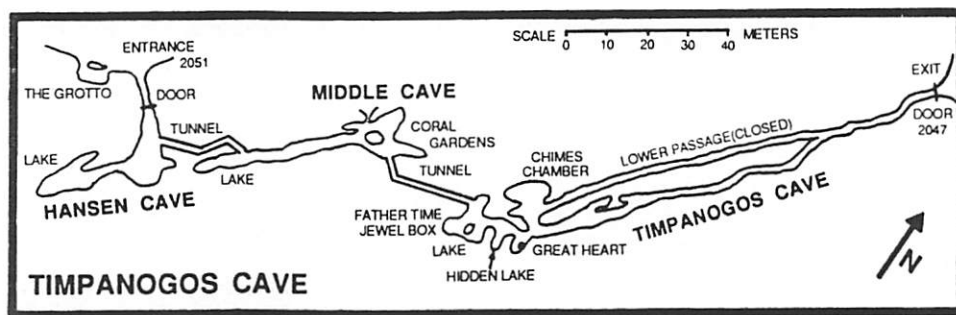
le tunnel extending 57 meters to the lower part of
of the three, mainly because it was never mined
small ponds or lakes, the famous Great Heart of



MAP 10, THE TIMPANOGOS CAVE HIKE



SCALE 0 100 200 300 400 500 METERS



of all, Chimes Chamber. Normally the guides will raphs in this last room. From Chimes Chamber, ack around some cliffs to the main trail and back

enter to the cave's entrance is about 2.4 kms. o the entrance. The round-trip hike will be about 6 is about 3 hours for the round-trip hike and cave

ound basis from 8 am to 4:30 pm daily, 7 days a the middle part of May until about mid-October. dent on the weather so the opening and closing

s open from 7 am until 6 pm daily, and the cave the visitor center is a snack bar, which is usually g the peak season, cave tours can run as often as

a small auditorium and a video TV program as well, ummer season of 1989, the NPS is considering a he TCNM at 756-5238(an American Fork number). while the cave entrance is 2051 meters altitude. the entrance of the cave.

ut running shoes are excellent.

ational monument, but there are a number of U.S. er up-canyon.

ve are closed in winter.

er until you arrive at the the mouth of the cave, you of geologic history.

ed is called the **Mutual Formation or Quartzite**. efore 600 million years ago. This figure represents the Cambrian period. The next formation above the ck dating from about 565 to 600 million years ago. e, then throughout the eons of time, and after being re-crystalized into quartzite.

the **Ophir Shale Formation**. This is also from the ve the Tintic, it's younger. Above the Ophir, most of were formed at the bottom of an ocean. The first It is the youngest of the three formations of the

This means there is a time gap between two layers een laid down at one time, but then the area was riods of deposition.

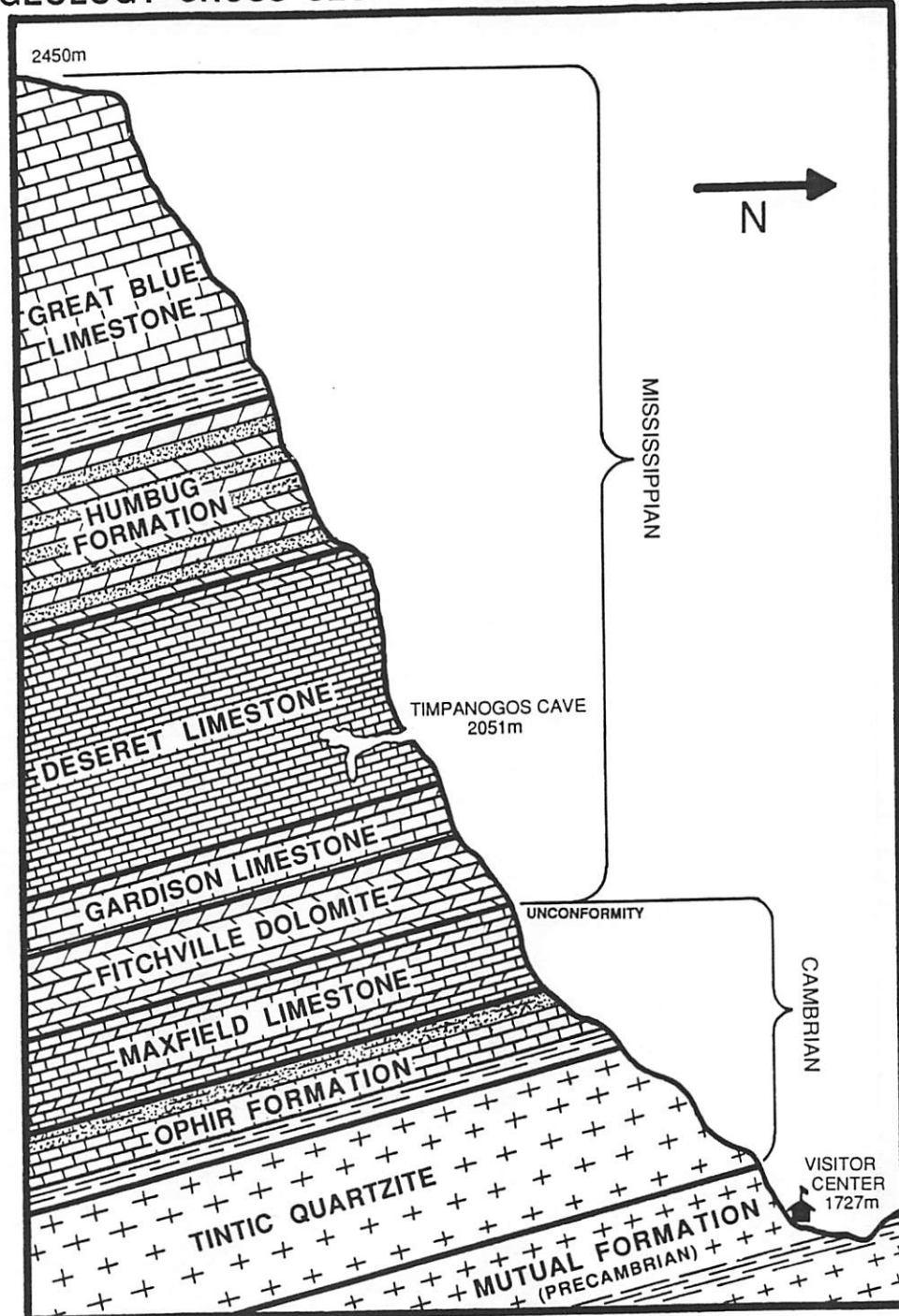
he unconformity is the **Fitchville Dolomite**, which ap(a period of erosion) of about 150 million years he same as limestone, but it has a higher content of are always formed at the bottom of an ocean, and e life).

on is the **Gardison Limestone**. It's hard for the ese layers, but the Gardison has more white chert son is immediately below the formation in which the alled the **Deseret Limestone**. The Deseret is a n years old. It's identifiable by large amounts of black n this geologic formation.

eret Formation is the **Humbug**, then **Great Blue** je.

s cave is very similar to other limestone caves also the same, except this cave was created along a / two stages of development. The first stage is when away. This is caused by rainwater and snowmelt ult lines. Limestone cannot be dissolved by mineral- nes the ground, it reacts with carbon dioxide from

GEOLOGY CROSS SECTION--AMERICAN FORK CANYON



decaying leaves and roots of trees, and becomes carbonic acid. This weak acid then seeps into the ground by way of cracks.

Once inside the rock, the water gradually moves down until it reaches the water table. As it moves down it dissolves limestone, creating cavities, chambers and tunnels. During wet periods, these chambers might be full of water, but later during dry periods, the mineralized water would flow out. Thus, during the dissolving stage, there was a constant renewal of water. Some geologists think most of the Timpanogos Cave system was made when the cave was at or near the water table. If this was the case, it must have been made long ago, because the water table today is at the bottom of American Fork Canyon, 324 meters or more below. However, others feel it is younger than that, so the age of the cave is still unknown.

The second stage is that of **deposition**. After the water table is lowered, or when the cave area is raised and becomes dry, this stage begins. An opening to the cave and atmosphere is likely made at some point in time. The process in this stage is almost the reverse of stage one, but this time there is less water and more air for evaporation. When the water with the dissolved minerals is exposed to air, the carbonic acid breaks down and the carbon dioxide is lost to the air (like opening a can of soda pop). In the process the water loses its ability to hold suspended matter, which in this case is calcite. The calcite is then deposited on the ceilings, walls or floors of the cave as evaporation takes place.

The basic limestone cave structures are called stalactites, stalagmites, columns, flowstone, drapery, and rimstone. Timpanogos Cave has all of these, plus helictites, something unique to this limestone cave. If you're interested in further explanations about this cave's features, you can buy a publication at the visitor center entitled, *Timpanogos Cave*.

History of the Discovery and Development of Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Much of the information in this section comes from a 1968 thesis from BYU by Gary V. Keetch, entitled *The Changing Impact of Man in American Fork Canyon*. Also, from an unpublished manuscript



At the mouth of Timpanogos Cave sometime in the 1920's.

and Routes--North,

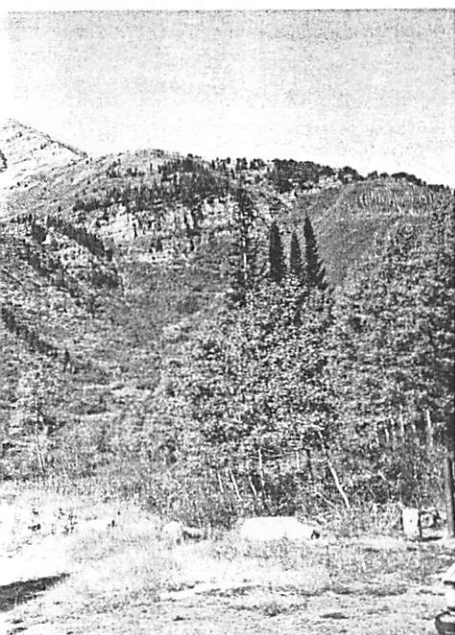
include those at the northern end of Mt. American Fork Canyon along the Alpine Scenic ground; or come in from the Provo Canyon side, Timpooneke. When you arrive in the upper end out the direction to the Timpooneke Campground ing off to the west. Just as you turn off the loop campground.

Timpooneke Trailhead parking area. This is the Map 13. Continue to the west as the paved road Campground. After a short distance the paved s the campground's two entrances. At the sharp es 15-32, turn left. Drive about 200 meters until a bridge. Park on the right just before the bridge

r or locked gate at the beginning of an old road Walk up this road past some springs and willows. After about 200 meters. This old road was used to water for the campgrounds below. After you pass the creek bed to the left side. When the trail bed. In the late spring and early summer(May all creek bed.

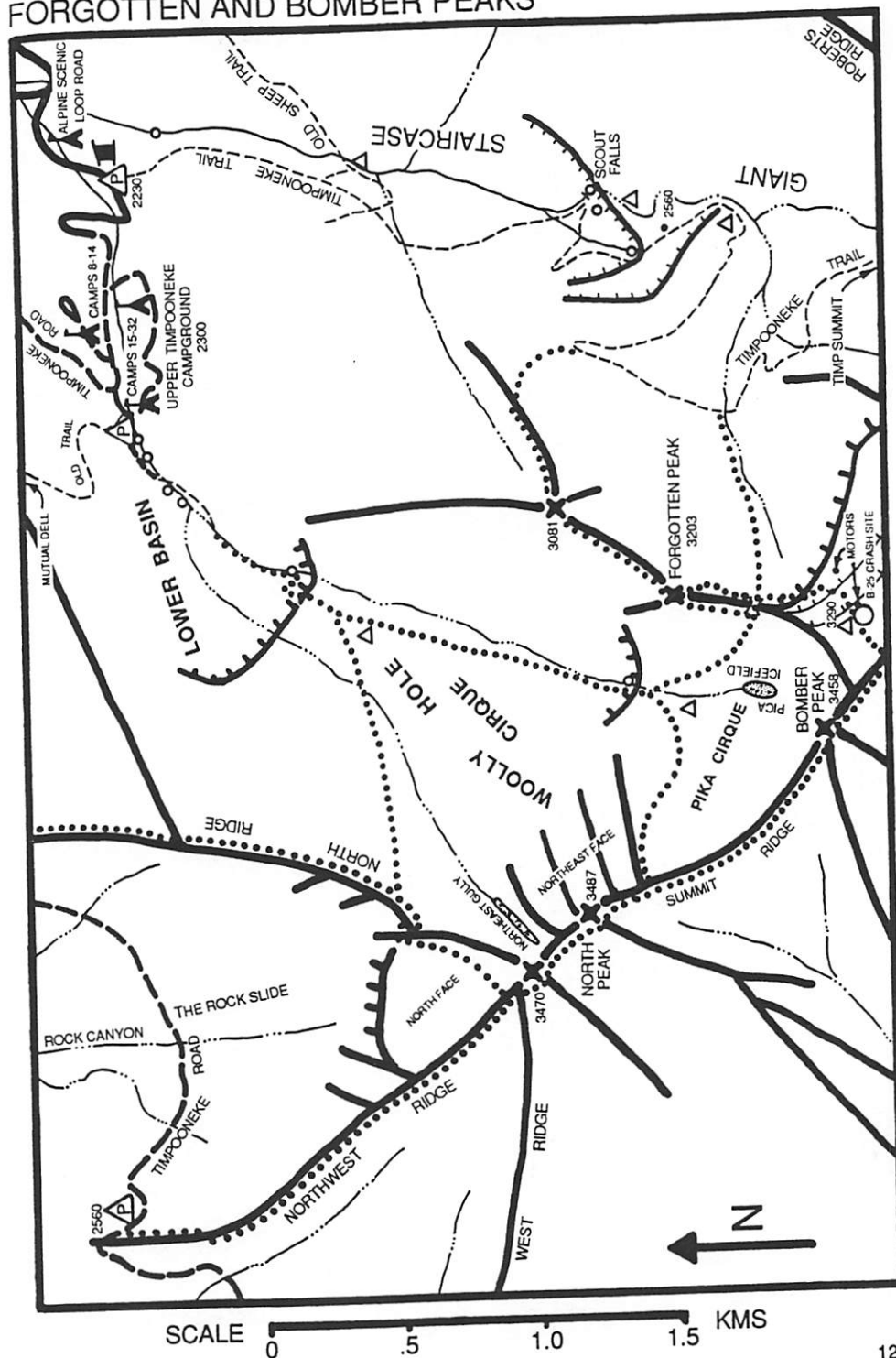
, because all of this lower glacier cirque basin gradually the creek bed veers to the left or south taking up the lower lip of **Woolly Hole**. Toward small springs which flow year-round. Stay in the mer. At that point look to the right or west, for a this until you're out of the ravine, then climb up the lower end of Woolly Hole cirque basin.

outes and peaks to choose from. One will be the into the the summit ridge then to the North Peak. n and Bomber Peaks.



the north peaks. Parking is on the right.

MAP 12, UPPER TIMPOONEKE CG. ROUTES-- NORTH, FORGOTTEN AND BOMBER PEAKS



Bomber Peaks(B-25 mp Summits

and most popular trail to the summit of Mt. Timpooneke Campground at the head of trail you can climb Forgotten and Bomber Peak and the Timp Glacier, and reach

past Mutual Dell along the South Fork and to the right. Take this paved side road into large parking lot which is the Timpooneke

several signs and a small Forest Service information. Then the trail heads straight up. After less than a km you'll come to an open rough the forest. If you were to go down into old sheep or cattle trail of some kind veering meadow in the spring and early summer.

begin to climb and will pass several places will see a sign pointing out the way to an on the side of the mountain which cascades

switchbacks and more places where spring arrive in the Middle Basin which is at about the debris scattered around, and snowdrifts h year.

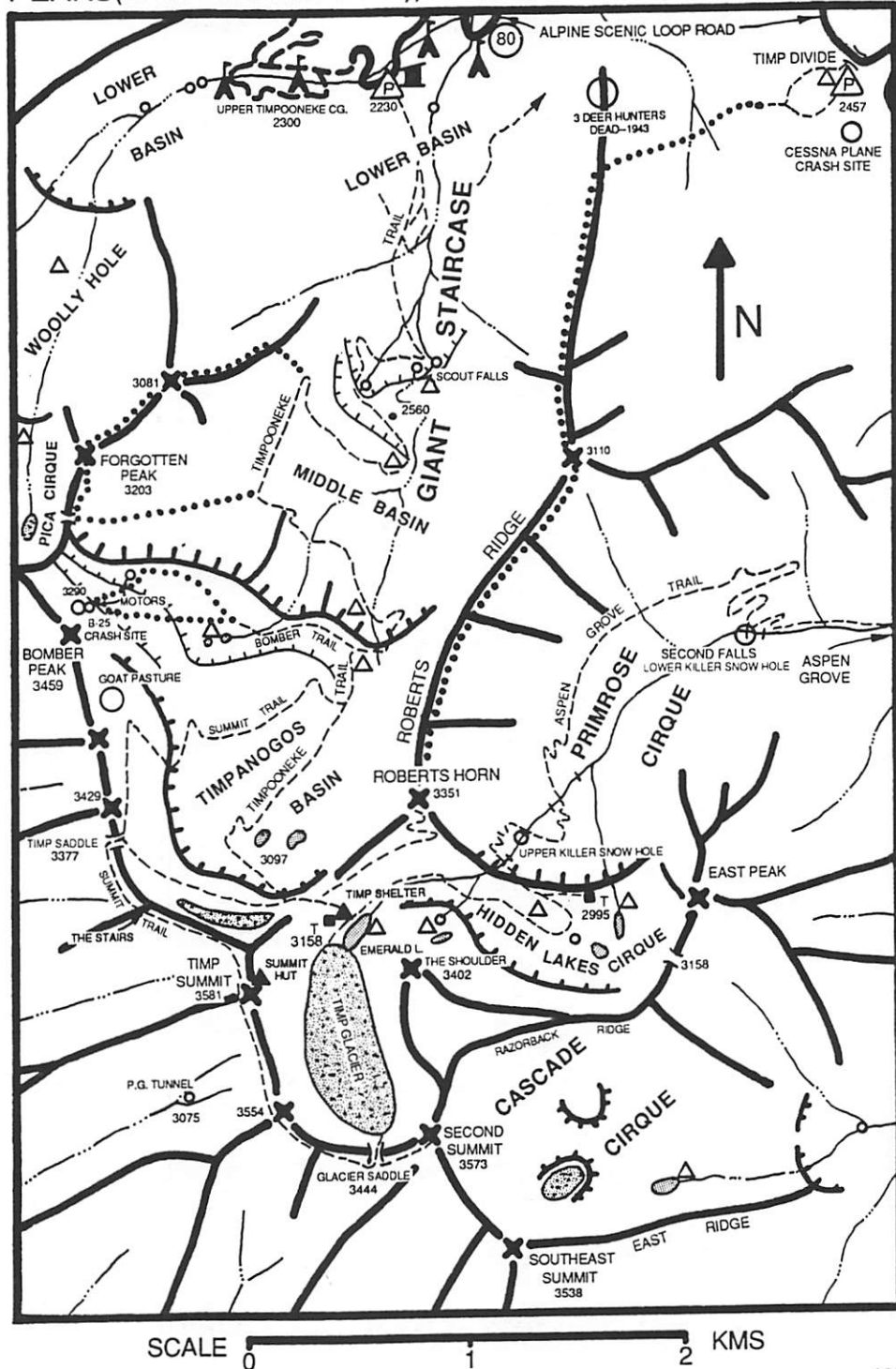
to the right or west and makes a big loop in the cirque called Timpanogos Basin. The g slope coming down from the pass between climbing a peak that's really unknown or

er time will be an avalanche chute. At the top a Cirque. From the pass walk north along the



To the south is the north face of Timp's
it.

MAP 13, TIMPOONEKE TRAIL--FORGOTTEN & BOMBER PEAKS(B-25 CRASH SITE), SECOND AND TIMP SUMMITS



1928 by the Forest Service. They put glass in it and made it into a kind of observatory. The glass has long since been blown out and it doesn't make much of a shelter any more. Read more about this hut under the *History of the Annual Timp Hike* in the introduction of this book.

From the summit you can walk south along the ridgeline directly above the **Timp Glacier**. When you reach the **Glacier Saddle** you can then climb up a simple hiker-made trail to the top of the **Second Summit**, or slide and walk down the glacier to **Emerald Lake**. From there you can walk west a ways, and if you have the energy, can try for the summit of **Roberts Horn**. From the Horn you can walk back to the Timpanogos Basin and the Timpooneke Trail.

Distance and Time Needed The sign at the Timpooneke Trailhead reads: Emerald Lake--6.5 miles(10.5 kms), Timp Summit--9.1 miles(14.7 kms), and Timpanogos Campground(Aspen Grove)--12 miles(19.3 kms).

Most people can hike to Emerald Lake in about 3 to 4 hours and the summit(without going to the lake) in 4 to 6 hours. By taking this normal route to the B-25 crash site it should take only about 3 hours one way for the average person. For those who are interested in seeing the crash site, the summit, then down the glacier to the lake, and back to the Timpooneke Trailhead, it would take most people around 8 to 10 hours. This hike would be too much for the average person, and only strong and fit hikers should attempt this semi-marathon. Most hikers however could see the B-25 and the Timp Summit and return in one day OK.

Best Time The normal hiking season for this route on Timp is from about mid-July until well into September. However, it should be reasonably easy and safe to do it from early July until late October, depending on the year. For those who have some pretty good boots, it could be hiked even in June, but you'd be on snow for at least half the distance in the upper basins. For an early season hike such as this, an ice ax or some kind of walking stick would be handy.

If you want to include a side trip to the crash site and see all the wreckage, better wait until after about mid or late August, otherwise the main part of the wreck will be covered by snow. In late summer the two airplane engines will be surrounded by a carpet of flowers.

Main Attractions There are many waterfalls along what is called the Giant Staircase, at least in early and mid-summer. There is the B-25 crash site, the most spectacular of the three plane wrecks that have occurred on the mountain. There is a good chance you will see some Rocky Mountain Goats, and have some good views of the valley, the glacier and Emerald Lake from the summit. This is perhaps the best all-around hike on the mountain.

Elevations The Timpooneke Trailhead, 2230 meters; Middle Basin, about 2600; Forgotten Peak, 3203; B-25 crash site, 3290; Bomber Peak, 3459; Timp Saddle, 3377; Timp Summit, 3581; Glacier



Rocky Mountain Goats resting on snowbanks during a warm summer day.

cascades and waterfalls during summer. Of course right after a stormy period, there will be danger from avalanches. But because of the occasional avalanches, it should be a very hard compacted snow surface throughout most of the winter season.

If you do attempt a winter time hike up the Timponeke Trail, it might be best to go early in the season, say around Thanksgiving weekend, or wait until early or mid-April. Even in April, you will surely sink into deep snow on the north face of the rock band just below Timp Basin. Avalanche danger on this route would be similar to other routes on the mountain. Along the Giant Staircase, avalanche snows come down to the valley floor from all sides.

History of the B-25 Crash Here's the story behind the crash of the B-25. The information comes from old newspaper clippings and from eye witness accounts to the rescue. Most of the people involved in the rescue attempt and bringing the bodies off the mountain were from Salt Lake or the Air Force. Other eye witnesses were from the towns of American Fork, Pleasant Grove and Alpine.

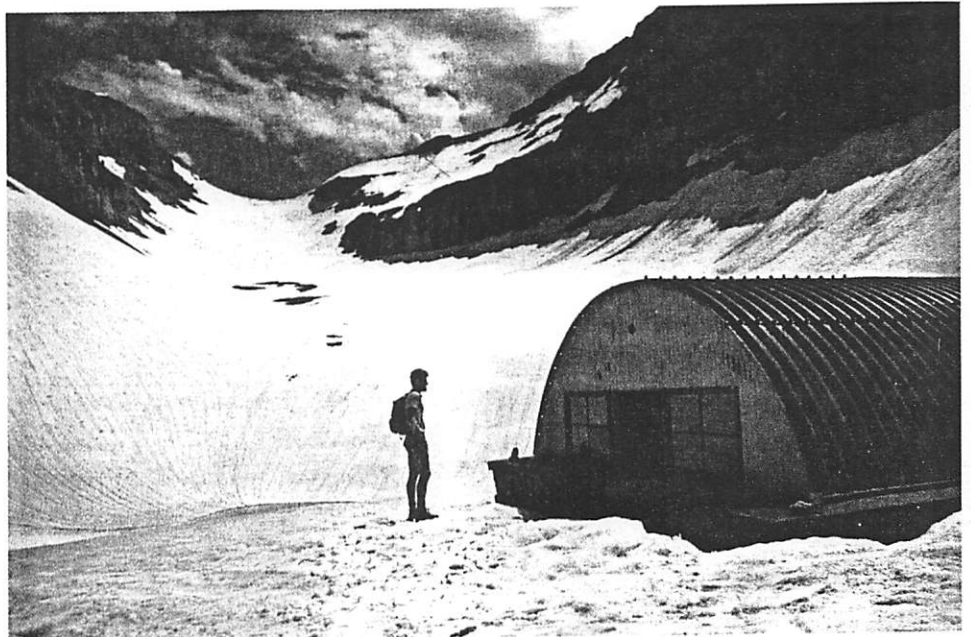
In the late afternoon of March 9, 1955, the weather in northern Utah was stormy as a cold front passed through the region. That day Brighton Ski Resort got 35 cms(14 inches) of snow, and other mountain areas received nearly half a meter(18"). Valley locations received both rain and snow.

The plane officially known as an Air Force TB-25(the T stands for trainer), with the aeronautical number 30050, had began its flight in Great Falls, Montana earlier in the day. The plane carried a crew of three and two passengers. Aboard the plane were Maj. D.C. Holley, pilot; 1st Lt. H.E. St. John, co-pilot; Airman 1-C D.H. Dempsey, crew chief; and M.J. McNalty and D.R. Cabbage, both civilians. All were stationed or working in Great Falls.

The B-25 had made a refueling stop at Hill Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah, Wednesday afternoon, March 9, 1955, and was on its way to March Air Force Base in Riverside, California. The plane passed over Salt Lake City and apparently made radio contact at 7:37 pm. At that time of year it would have been just after dark. Shortly after this time it dropped out of radar sight. It failed to make radio contact over the Utah County station, presumably the Provo Airport.

Somehow the World War II bomber got off course because of the bad weather. Perhaps their instruments were malfunctioning. At any rate, they were blown way off course to the east and crashed on the first bench below the summit of what the author is calling Bomber Peak. The crash site is on the northeast side of the peak at an altitude of approximately 3290 meters.

The next morning, Thursday, March 10, the clouds and storm abated somewhat and when the clouds finally lifted, 18 search planes were sent out looking for the B-25, as well as a twin-engined Beechcraft. This second plane had last made radio contact with Ft. Bridger, Wyoming at 5:14 pm, as



Timp Shelter at Emerald Lake. Looking south at the glacier with the summit of Timp to the right.
A June 1st foto from the early 1980's.

right after a stormy period, there will be danger of avalanches, it should be a very hard compacted

Timpooneke Trail, it might be best to go early in the morning until early or mid-April. Even in April, you will find a rock band just below Timp Basin. Avalanches are common on the mountain. Along the Giant Staircase, on all sides.

At the crash of the B-25. The information comes from the accounts of the rescue. Most of the people who got off the mountain were from Salt Lake or the Air Force, Pleasant Grove and Alpine.

After in northern Utah was stormy as a cold front moved through the area, the resort got 35 cms (14 inches) of snow, and other locations received both rain and snow.

5 (the T stands for trainer), with the aeronautical engineer earlier in the day. The plane carried a crew of four: Maj. D.C. Holley, pilot; 1st Lt. H.E. St. John, co-pilot; J. McNulty and D.R. Cabbage, both civilians. All

at the Air Force Base near Ogden, Utah, Wednesday morning, March 9, 1955. The plane was on a mission to the Air Force Base in Riverside, California. The last radio contact was at 7:37 pm. At that time of year it was too dark to see the plane. It failed to make contact with the Provo Airport.

Because of the bad weather. Perhaps their plane was blown way off course to the east and the author is calling Bomber Peak. The crash site is at approximately 3290 meters.

The clouds and storm abated somewhat and when the author was looking for the B-25, as well as a twin-engined plane, contact with Ft. Bridger, Wyoming at 5:14 pm, as



glacier with the summit of Timp to the right. early 1980's.

it headed for Salt Lake City, the same day the B-25 went down. The Beechcraft was carrying 5 people as it left Rock Springs, Wyoming, destined for California (it was found later in the spring on the north slope of the Uinta Mountains).

In the late afternoon of Thursday, March 10, the wreckage of the B-25 was spotted by the pilot of an Air Force C-47. The Provo Daily Herald quoted the pilot as stating, *it was pretty well broken up, and there was no sign of life.* That evening the Air Force, Wasatch National Forest, and the National Ski Patrol personnel planned a rescue attempt for the next day.

In the early morning hours of Friday, March 11, a rescue party led by Alta avalanche expert and Wasatch National Forest ranger Monte Atwater, began the trek up the mountain. Others in the group were Wallace (Smokey) Saling of Pleasant Grove, a Uinta National Forest ranger; Jim Shane, Harold Goodro, Jim McConkie, and Bob Wright, all of Salt Lake City and the National Ski Patrol. Also, Robert J. Miller of Nephi and the Uinta National Forest, and T-Sergeant William Hyatt and A-1c Roger Record, 44th Air Rescue Squadron, Lowry AFB in Colorado.

The rescue party used a snowcat, apparently belonging to the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, because two of their employees John H. Risch and Gerald B. Rusho, were operating the machine. They went up American Fork Canyon to the area of the Timpooneke Ranger Station, which is next to the Timpooneke Campground and Trailhead. From there they headed up the mountain along the Giant Staircase in the general area of the present-day Timpooneke Trail.

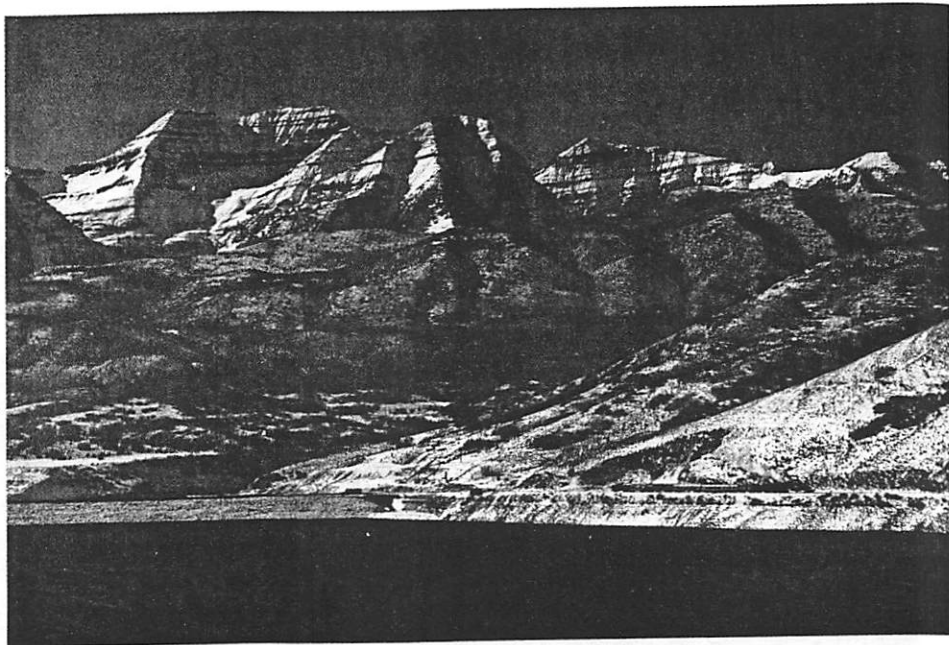
To help the ground party, an Air Force Albatross was to be used in spotting the wreckage and guiding them to the site. But the weather was still very bad and the ground party got no help from the air. However, Sheriff Theron T. Hall and his department did post a radio operated car somewhere near Timp Cave. The ground party carried a walkie-talkie radio and had hoped to make contact with the search plane and/or the Sheriff's department. It's unknown if they succeeded.

As it turned out, the ground party apparently did not locate the crash site on Friday, but went back up the mountain again Saturday morning, March 12. They toiled all day, but most of the party turned back because of the threat of avalanches. That part of the group was apparently hoping to get one or more recoil-less rifles to trigger avalanches. However, three of the party continued to search the higher cliffs and crags of the mountain. That morning an Air Force rescue plane again flew over the mountain and spotted the wreckage, and this helped Jim Shane to see the site. Later he and two other members of the group identified as Harold Goodro and Lee Stoerts, all members of the National Ski Patrol, made it to the scene. They found three bodies, but because of the late hour, they had to get off the mountain before darkness set in. They made no attempt to bring out any of the victims that night.

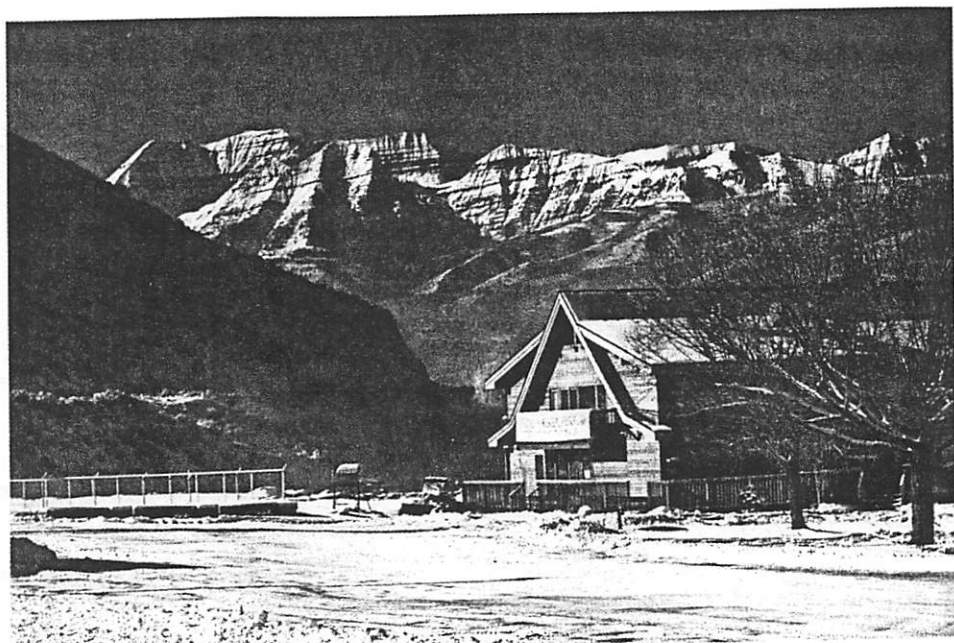
Sunday, March 13, was apparently another day of bad weather, because nothing happened in the



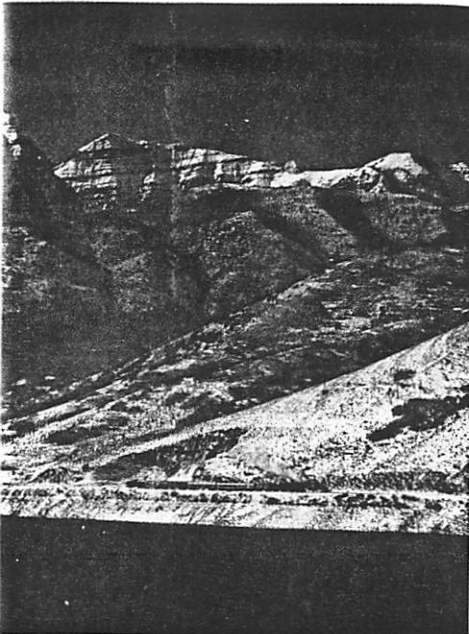
Wreckage of the B-25 bomber which crashed on March 9, 1955. As it looked in 1988.



The eastern side of Timp as seen from near the dam on Deer Creek Reservoir. The Heber Creeper is to the lower right.



Mt. Timpanogos as seen from the Deer Creek Island Resort in the lower Heber Valley.



on Deer Creek Reservoir. The Heber Creeper is
ver right.



An October scene and the northeast face of North Peak.



Resort in the lower Heber Valley.



Snow Cornices along the ridge between the Second and Southeast Summits.

Horn

the top of Roberts Horn via a big northern ridge
limb is the Timp Divide. The Timp Divide is the
American Fork Canyon and the North Fork of
the Divide and drive an old deer hunters track for
the Forest Service blocked off that road and re-
to park in a large parking area right at the Divide,

the Timp Divide, you can walk either one of the
y the one to the north. This track winds through
e it ends, just set your sights on the northern end
ees. For the most part it's easy walking through
ls, but they don't usually go in your direction.
ge, is a shallow drainage. In the bottom of this
l easy walking. The hardest part of the entire trip
top of the ridge. On that slope are various kinds
the ridgetop, the walking is easy as you wander
looking for the easiest route. The higher you go,
sh and willows.

Roberts Ridge, where three deer hunters were
k in October of 1943, and froze to death. Read all
on Mt. Timpanogos.

very open and all you'll find on top are some pine
marked 3110 meters, you will have some excellent
and summits beyond. From that point, you will
f the ridge that's at or near timber line. In places
ther to avoid rocky buttresses, but all in all it's still

aps the best view anywhere of the higher peaks of
Peak, Razorback Ridge, Second Summit, The
t, Timp Basin, and Bomber, North and Forgotten



ge, looking southwest at the Second Summit, Roberts
it in the right background.

MAP 14, ROBERTS RIDGE ROUTE--ROBERTS HORN

